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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXIX, Issue No. 164

www.saipantribune.com TUESDAY AUGUST 20, 2019 www.facebook.com/saipantribune

'Tax refunds hinge on fed repayments'

CPA MEETING
Commonwealth Ports Authority's board committees on financial affairs, seaport facilities, and personnel affairs hold special meetings last Friday at the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting classroom of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. Among the issues discussed was the wharfage fee.
FERDIE DE LA TORRE

> *Once we get reimbursements, then we will give out the tax refunds; hopefully within the month.*

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The delayed tax refunds would most likely be issued once the CNMI government starts to receive federal reimbursements for the CNMI government's expenses in the aftermath of Super Typhoon Yutu, according to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

See TAX on Page 4

MVA: Air Asia entry would be welcome

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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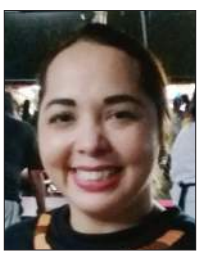
REPORTER

Although there has been no official communication yet, the reported plan of Air Asia Philippines to provide air service to Saipan and Guam would be welcome, according to both the Marianas Visitors Authority and the Commonwealth Ports Authority.



Iakopo

King-Hinds

Responding to stories reported by regional media, MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo said yesterday that Air Asia Philippines' launch of air services will pro-

See MVA on Page 4

Monitor: IPI employees paid properly, no wrong deductions

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

An auditor appointed by the federal court to monitor Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC found that most IPI employees they interviewed stated that their regular and overtime work are properly compensated.

The independent monitor, Burger Comer Magliari (BCM), informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI Friday in its report that most of the IPI employees they interviewed also report no improper deductions on their pay.

See IPI on Page 4

'TV appearance won't affect parole program'

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The administration of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is confident that his recent appearance in Fox News' *Tucker Carlson* will not affect the CNMI-only discretionary parole program, contrary to the belief of Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan).

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Kensington goes a step further to incorporate more green practices into its operations.
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Hong Kong streets turned into rivers of umbrellas, as thousands of people marched.
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Local

Lujan says he repaid $2M to Hillbroom's trust

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Guam lawyer David J. Lujan claimed that he repaid $2,003,779 to the trust of his former client, Junior Larry Hillbroom, who filed a frivolous lawsuit against him.

In his declaration, Lujan said he reviewed the accounting documents that Roger Slater created at Hillbroom and Keith Waibel's instruction when they were scheming to file the frivolous lawsuit.

Slater was hired by Waibel to analyze distributions and fee amounts in the Junior Larry Hillbroom Trust.

Waibel used to be the trustee of JLH. Waibel, along with Vietnam-based lawyer Barry J. Israel, was also named co-defendant in Hillbroom's lawsuit.

Lujan said that Slater's accounting documents do not include the $2,003,779 that he repaid to the JLH Trust. He presumed this is because Hillbroom and Waibel never told Slater of this and did not provide Slater with the documentation showing this repayment.

Lujan apparently repaid the $2 million in fees as a result of an indemnification agreement. He did not discuss details about the indemnification agreement.

Lujan's declaration was filed before the U.S. District Court for the NMI last week in support of Israel's motion to dismiss Hillbroom's lawsuit for lack of federal jurisdiction.

In the motion to dismiss the lawsuit, Israel said that even under Slater's admitted faulty analysis, he (Israel) and Lujan actually received $29.33 million or 41% of the total distributed to JLH Trust through October 2002—not 56%.

Israel said this conclusively demonstrates that no retroactive payments were ever made and that he and Lujan received

See LUJAN on Page 4

NURSING ASSISTANT TRAINING
Congratulations to the 10 NMC students who completed the Nursing Assistant Training Program. The certificate program, held in partnership with the CNMI Area Health Education Center, prepares entry-level nursing assistants to provide basic nursing care to the elderly, ill, and persons with disabilities in long-term care, hospitals, clinics, schools, and home health settings. Joining the students in photo are, standing from left to right, Renae Raho, CHCC director of Nursing; Rosa T. Aldan, NMC Nursing Department chairwoman; Breanna Lee, NMC Nursing instructor; Frankie Eliptico, NMC interim president, standing second from right; and Johnny Aldan, NMC Nursing instructor, standing right.
NMC

Torres enacts law amending bond language

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres enacted yesterday afternoon legislation that clarified some of the possible parameters that could surround future CNMI government bond agreements with the Commonwealth Development Authority.

Torres signed into law House Speaker Blas Jonathan "B.J." Attao's (R-Saipan) House Bill 21-63, or the Bond Amendment Act of 2019 at the Office of the Governor's conference room on Capital Hill.

Now Public Law 21-4, the Bond Amendment Act of 2019 essentially allows the CNMI government to float different bond types that are taxable.

Previously, the CNMI government was only allowed to undertake a type of bond that is non-taxable, specifically a general obligation bond. With the enactment of the Bond Amendment Act of 2019, the government can generate income by taxing bond agreements.

"…This [legislation] essentially allows our bond underwriters to go and research other types of bonds that the CNMI can get into, which is more beneficial to the CNMI because a general obligation bond is not beneficial to the CNMI at all," Attao told *Saipan Tribune*.

He noted that CDA had been looking at some of the possible bonds the CNMI government could get into, but could not fully commit because of the previously restrictive language pertaining to bond underwriting.

"…That's why this amendment was needed so that they could have other options that are more beneficial [to the CNMI] such as a taxable bond," Attao said.

According to Torres, he is signing the bill into law with the intention of allowing the CDA to float a pension obligation bond—a taxable bond.

"…This is to give authorization to CDA to float a pension obligation bond. …We are here to ask [CDA executive director Manuel Sablan] to expedite this process and I hope that we can…close it by the end of the fiscal year or the first quarter of next year," Torres said before he signed the legislation.

It was not immediately clarified if Torres means that floating a bond is a distinct possibility but, as stated by Attao, "This [legislation] will at least give the CNMI options on the types of bond if it does decide to go into a bond.

"It will give them options on the types of bond it can negotiate into besides the general obligation bond," Attao said. "…With our credit ratings being good right now, we might as well take advantage of the types of bonds that are available to the CNMI should we decide to go into a bond."

In a separate interview, Sablan explained, "This amendment provides for the gross business revenue to be pledged as a first pledge against a bond.

"In other words…the bondholders will have the first lean on the tax receipts to meet the annual payments of the bond. By doing that, it allows the bond to be floated at a higher rating," he said, adding that the higher rating allows for a lower interest rate and fewer expenses.

60 take part in Talaabwogh StaR's youth conference

By MARC A. VENUS
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REPORTER

The 2019 Youth for Youth Conference at the Pacific Islands Club's Charley's Cabaret last Saturday drew the participation of about 60 youths and collaborations with partnering agencies.

The conference, which focused on youth mental health, suicide prevention, substance abuse, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer alliances for the youth, grew out of a youth conference in Guam that was attended by some Talaabwogh StaR Association members.

"A handful of our TstaRs members attended a youth conference in Guam and were inspired to share what they learned with their peers," said Rep. Sheila Babauta (Ind-Saipan). "The 2019 Youth for Youth Conference was a huge success. …I'm so proud of the association for organizing this event and, most especially, our youth for spending their Saturday with us."

The whole-day conference lasted from 8am to 4pm.

"For this year, we let the youth lead the conference with ideas on event structure and activities," Babauta said.

The conference's keynote speaker was Josh "ZengZung" Castro, who talked about his life story, his goals, and advice to the participants.

The conference's partnering agencies were the Garrett Lee Smith Youth Suicide Prevention Program, the Commonwealth Health Care Corp.'s Systems of Care, and Behavioral Health Services.

The participants were introduced to the roundtable learning structure, which allows each participant to add an answer to a certain question or topic with a piece of paper being passed around.

"The roundtable learning structure gave the participants an opportunity to have meaningful conversations about sensitive topics with professionals in our community," Babauta said. Participants had to opportunity to ask questions and learn more about the resources available to them.

"It was important that they feel comfortable opening up and having these discussions with their peers," Babauta said.

Pride Marianas' Jennifer Furey Maratita introduced the participants to the idea of being an ally to the LGBTQ youth community. Babauta that the participants were given resources on helpful and hurtful tips and were informed of future Pride Marianas youth events such as the "Ally Week," which is occurring in the last week of September.

The Talaabwogh StaR Association, founded by Ignacia and Manny Evangelista, is a faith-based non-profit organization committed to promoting healthy alternative activities for the youth Tanapag. Its mission is to combat the prevalence of substance abuse in the village of Tanapag by providing a variety of opportunities to encourage participation in community service. They are currently headed by association president Malcolm Omar; board member Marira Rios Arriola was the youth conference coordinator.

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Man gets suspended sentence of 6 months in prison

A man accused of assault and battery pleaded guilty to a count of disturbing the peace as part of a plea deal and was sentenced to six months in prison—all suspended.

Jesse James Limes Laniyo, 41, pleaded guilty to one count of disturbing the peace. The remaining charge of assault and battery was dropped as part of the plea deal.

According to the judgment and commitment order issued by Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan, Laniyo will be placed on supervised probation for six months.

Laniyo was also ordered to pay assessment fees and probation fees and $1,942.66 in restitution to the victim payable to the Commonwealth Health Center and the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services.

Laniyo is also strictly prohibited from having any contact with the victim.

He was ordered to complete 20 hours of community service at the direction of the Office of Adult Probation.

Laniyo must also abide by all CNMI laws and federal laws as well as rules of the Office of Adult Probation.

Laniyo was discharged from the Department of Corrections following his sentencing but, according to the court, failure to comply with the sentencing agreement will constitute a violation of probation and shall subject Laniyo to extension or revocation of his probation, or imposition of all or part of the suspended sentence.

According to court information, Laniyo unlawfully disturbed Frank Tudela Pangelinan on April 8, 2018, depriving him of his right to peace and quiet. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

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TV

From Page 1

In his recent television appearance on Fox News, Torres stressed that his administration is against birth tourism in the CNMI. Propst frets, however, in a social media post that the way the TV program framed the issue might put the discretionary parole program in jeopardy.

The discretionary parole program allows tourists from China and Russia to enter the CNMI without a visa. What awaits them is a vetting process at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

In a statement issued in response to Torres' appearance on the TV show, the Torres administration pointed out that Torres led the CNMI in the recent 902 Consultations to "save" the parole program, "protect our economy, and promote our national security interests."

"The discretionary parole program was saved because of conversations the governor led with the White House and other federal partners to articulate our position," the statement added.

The administration statement further noted that the parole program had always been used as leverage to express the U.S. federal government's discontent with the birth tourism numbers in the CNMI.

The Torres administration notes that both the Obama and Trump administrations have threatened to take away the parole program because of birth tourism.

The Torres administration pointed out that there had been a "huge reduction" in birth tourism numbers from 2018 to 2019 as a result of the administration's coordination with U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Homeland Security, the White House, and airlines on monitoring pregnant passengers from "around our Asian source markets."

"Birth tourism went up every year from 2013 to 2018, [from] 287 to a peak of 582. The Commonwealth Health Care Corp. dataset reflects that," the administration statement noted.

The statement said that the bigger issue is that the CNMI can no longer tolerate birth tourism because it puts a strain on the CNMI's health care resources at CHCC and hampers economic growth.

In a social media post, Propst refuted the Fox News report on birth tourism in the CNMI, specifically the numbers it cited.

"…It…is not as bad as Fox News' *Tucker Carlson* claimed. [Carlson] stated in an interview with [Torres] that 'every month, tens of thousands of tourists come to the Northern Mariana Islands to give birth'—that is a bold-faced lie that needs to be corrected," Propst noted in his social media post.

Propst also cited numbers obtained from CHCC, which indicate a spike in tourist births from 2009's 51 to 2018's 582. Of the 582 births in 2018, 575 were Chinese.

"…That translates to 98.8% of birth tourism coming from China," he noted in his post.

The real fear, according to Propst's post, is rescinding the parole program, which contributes to about 40% of the CNMI's economy.

"The fact is, this interview with *Tucker Carlson* may put the CNMI's parole program for Chinese tourists at risk. Since 98.8% of birth tourism in the CNMI comes from China, the only realistic way to reduce this number is to eliminate the parole program that is exclusively limited to the CNMI," he noted.

"…So, if Trump believes that 'every month, tens of thousands of tourists are coming to the Northern Mariana Islands to give birth,' he may decide to cancel the parole program that allows Chinese tourists to visit our islands," he added.

"I highly recommend this administration take time to look at the number of tourist births for 2019. What they will see is that tourist births have dropped considerably. Over seven months, from January to July of 2019, there were only 149 tourist births. That is far less than the 582 tourist births from 2018," he added.

MVA

From Page 1

vide additional flights for Philippine tourists who would like to visit the Marianas.

This will also provide convenient services for CNMI residents who want visit the Philippines, especially those seeking medical care in the Philippines, said Iakopo, when asked for comments about the reported plan.

CPA board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds affirmed that she did see reports in the media about Air Asia Philippines intent to service Guam and the CNMI, but said that they have not had any official communications from the airline stating its interest.

If true, it would be very exciting to have direct flights from Saipan to Manila, she said.

"And I hope that they are successful in their efforts to secure and meet all the necessary federal requirements to be able to establish the routes," King-Hinds said.

Philippine and Guam-based newspapers reported Friday that Air Asia Philippines, a budget airline, has sought the permission of the Civil Aeronautics Board—the Philippine aviation regulatory agency—to fly to the United States. The papers quoted CAB director Camerlo Arcilla as saying that Air Asia Philippines plans to fly to U.S. territories such as Guam and Saipan, and not the U.S. mainland.

Air Asia Philippines is the Philippine affiliate of AirAsia, a low-cost airline based in Malaysia. Aside from Philippine domestic flights, the airline operates international flights.

TAX

From Page 1

Torres noted in an interview over the weekend that the tax refunds for fiscal year 2018 would most likely start being distributed once reimbursements from the Federal Emergency Management Agency are received.

"The money that we [had] was used for Yutu recovery," he told *Saipan Tribune* without clarifying where the money came from. "We are hoping that once we get [federal] reimbursements, then we will give out the tax refunds. Hopefully within the month."

Finance Secretary David Atalig said that the ideal date for the release of the annual tax refunds is in late May or early June.

Tax refunds are locally funded while child tax rebates are federally funded.

The Finance Department is currently processing their fourth batch of child tax rebates.

Atalig said in a previous statement that the CNMI government is still identifying funding sources for the tax refunds. However, because of Super Typhoon Yutu last October 2018, tax collections have been relatively dry.

He attributed the delay in the tax refunds to "the huge amount expended for the response and recovery of Super Typhoon Yutu and the slow process of getting reimbursed by FEMA" as well as the hampered revenue collections that followed.

This year's total tax rebate and refunds amount to nearly $21 million, $11 million of which are child tax rebates. Last year, there were a total of $26 million in total tax rebate and refunds, with over $8 million in child tax rebates.

Since July 2, 2019, the Finance Department has been releasing child tax rebates as they are made available and when Finance obtains the authority to drawdown the funds.

"[I am] asking for the patience and understanding of all our CNMI taxpayers, as the administration is doing its best to secure funding for the release of all tax rebates and refunds. It is a priority to get these funds into the hands of families so that it can assist them in their financial needs, as we are still all recovering from Super Typhoon Yutu," Atalig told *Saipan Tribune* in an earlier statement.

IPI

From Page 1

For those occasions where there was some type of error, they were corrected in the subsequent pay period, said BCM managing partner David J. Burger.

BCM began monitoring IPI in mid-May 2019. Its report covers that period until last Thursday, Aug. 15.

Interviews with employees were done almost exclusively in BCM's conference room in Puerto Rico, Saipan, and a set of questions was asked every employee, Burger said. The questions were translated to Chinese, Tagalog, Korean, and Thai. Burger said their firm has English, Tagalog, Korean, and Chinese language capabilities. He said they do have contacts who can provide translation for Thai or Mongolian.

Recently, he said, some of the interviews were conducted with newly arrived Italian construction workers and that IPI provided a translator for those workers.

With respect to potential issues identified from the interview process, Burger said IPI has what they call a "dual rate" system in place, which was recently implemented.

As IPI consolidates departments of functions, it is possible that an employee will perform the duties of the job they were hired to do, and may also perform the duties of a different position, Burger said. The different position may carry a different hourly rate.

Burger said the employee is sometimes paid using the rate for the alternate position for the hours worked in the alternate position. At other times, the employee is paid solely the rate for their original job classification.

Burger said they searched the Fair Labor Standards Act and its regulations and did not find any guidance that prohibits paying an employee just one rate, regardless of whether the employee performs the duties of more than one position.

"Our research indicates that the employee and employer can agree on how the employee will be compensated," he said.

Burger said they did find guidance on how to calculate overtime pay for employees who work in more than one position.

"In cases where a non-exempt employee is paid at different rates for different duties performed, the overtime rate to be paid is based on the weighted average hourly rate for regular work performed," he said.

Burger said the Commonwealth Casino Commission has apparently authorized the use of dual rates for some IPI employees.

He said there is a specific stamp on CCC identification tags for employees authorized to receive dual rates.

Burger said they are still resolving certain issues relating to the rate of pay that was actually paid to certain employees.

In all cases, IPI paid the employees at a rate higher than what BCM calculated, he said.

He disclosed that there were 21 employees in the sample of 280 where the rate of pay seemed to differ from the amount indicated on the personnel action form or the offer letter. Burger said in almost all cases, the difference was caused by tips paid to the employee.

He said the hourly rates for the employees were proper.

Upon their request for a list of contractors working on IPI projects, IPI provided them with a list showing names of nine companies, contact information, and type of work being performed, Burger said.

He said he personally visited the offices of six of the nine companies. Of the three that Burger did not visit, one is in Guam, one shows contact information with a Seattle area code, and one does not currently have any employees on Saipan.

Burger said that, for each of the six companies he visited, he explained to them their role in independently monitoring IPI's compliance with the FLSA.

Burger said he found that IPI had not requested for the payroll records of any of the six companies.

He said that almost unanimously, the six companies stated that they were not currently working on any projects for IPI. Instead, they told him that they were waiting to be paid by IPI.

The six companies, he said, asserted that they are paying their employees the proper wages and for overtime pay.

IPI has been placed on independent monitoring in connection with U.S. Labor Secretary R. Alexander Acosta's lawsuit in federal court against IPI and its subsidiary, Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, for alleged violations of FLSA over the construction of its casino/resort project in Garapan.

USDOL investigated the casino construction project covering the period from Jan. 22, 2016, to Dec. 19, 2017. The investigation revealed violations of the FLSA caused by the IPI contractors' failure to pay overtime and minimum wages, as well as maintain records required by the FLSA.

To resolve the lawsuit, IPI and Acosta agreed to an entry of a consent judgment. IPI agreed to pay a total amount of $3,360,000, which is comprised of $1,580,00 in back wages, another $1,580,000 in liquidated damages, and $200,000 in civil monetary penalties.

The parties signed the consent judgment last April.

LUJAN

From Page 2

far less than the alleged backdated 56% claimed in Hillbroom's lawsuit.

In his declaration, Lujan said at no time did he ever exert any influence over Naoko Imeong, the grandmother and guardian of Hillbroom.

Lujan said Imeong was the fiercely independent and strong-willed matriarch of her family.

As counsel of Imeong in her role as guardian for Hillbroom, Lujan said he provided her advice and counsel. He said he was certainly a resource for her from whom she sought counsel for Hillbroom and her family.

"However, I never used my position of trust to influence or take advantage of Naoko," said Lujan, adding that she would accept his counsel and also challenge his recommendations and make decision without any advice.

Lujan said he prepared the joinder by Imeong as co-guardian of Hillbroom that he submitted with the ex-parte application to approve amended retainer fee agreement to the Guam Guardianship Court.

Ex-parte application refers to a request to the court by one of the parties to the action without the other party being present or heard.

Lujan said that prior to Imeong signing the joinder, he met with her to discuss the 56% retainer and her joinder. Lujan said he went over the 56% retainer and her joinder with her to her satisfaction. He said Imeong "willingly and voluntarily agreed her joinder in his presence."

Had Imeong refused to sign her joinder, that would have been the last word, Lujan said, as he did not have the ability to force, coerce, or influence her to do so.

Research finds climate change data in nearby corals reliable

Tracking climate change through corals has historically meant studying coral in remote locations, away from civilization and the related environmental conditions that might affect the data. But research compiled by University of Guam faculty and published in the *Journal of Coastal Research* proves otherwise.

"We're not the first ones to find climate signals in coral in this region, but what we did was we found climate signal in a bizarre place," said Mark A. Lander, an assistant professor of meteorology at UOG's Water & Environmental Research Institute of the Western Pacific and co-author of the report.

The 2011 master's thesis of Tomoko Bell, a former UOG environmental studies student and lead author of the report, studied 50 years' worth of data from a *P. lutea* coral colony off of Gab Gab Beach in Apra Harbor—a shallow-water, near-shore, economically and recreationally active area. Bell's results in Apra Harbor showed the same long-term warming trend shown in other local and regional meteorological records.

"Apra Harbor has Navy ships, beaches, and people are snorkeling, but we got a climate signal, and it goes against the grain of what people think needs to be done to get climate data," Lander said. "Most scientists who set out to retrieve climate signals from coral try to find pristine, clean, undisturbed, deeper water locations."

The problem with using undisturbed locations are the logistical difficulties in drilling the coral and inaccessibility, which prevents researchers from closely monitoring environmental variables that might influence the chemical signal in the coral.

Bell's research consisted of drilling into the coral with a special tool and extracting samples from different periods of the coral's growth. She determined the strontium to calcium ratio of each sample, which shows an inverse correlation to the seawater temperature during the coral segment's formation. The accessibility of the site enabled her to also document environmental variables.

Lander then took the raw data and found that it followed the records found in the El Niño–Southern Oscillation and Pacific Decadal Oscillation indices, which track sea surface temperatures, over 50 years.

"This shows that reliable records of local climate are possible from disturbed places no one would have ever thought to look, and it means that great efforts need not be expended on the logistics of finding, traveling to, and maintaining instrumentation at a remote, pristine, undisturbed site," Lander said.

Having climate data locally allows scientists to establish a baseline for tracking climate change, he said, and to assess its impact in that location. Additionally, by using corals to determine the past climate of the ocean, scientists can make climate projections for the future.

"The results were unexpectedly interesting and are a novel contribution to this line of research," said John W. Jenson, director of WERI at the university and a co-author of the paper.

The data from a study of other corals in Apra Harbor and in Asan, however, did not yield the same results and still requires research as to why, Lander said.

After the discovery, Bell, Lander, Jenson and the other researchers—Richard H. Randall of UOG's WERI, Judson W. Partin of the Institute for Geophysics at the University of Texas, and Nancy G. Prouty of the U.S. Geological Survey's Pacific Coastal & Marine Science Center—merged the two studies into one 43-page article: "A 50-Year Sr/Ca Time Series from an Enclosed, Shallow-Water Guam Coral: *In situ* Monitoring and Extraction of a Temperature Trend, Annual Cycle, and ENSO and PDO Signals." The full article can be read by journal subscribers at https://www.jcronline.org/doi/full/10.2112/JCOASTRES-D-16-00099.1. ***(PR)***

Gab Gab Beach in Apra Harbor, Guam, the site where a 60-year-old coral was tested for climate change signals.
UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

A 60-year-old colony of *P. lutea* coral off of Gab Gab Beach in Guam's Apra Harbor is not in an environment ideal for extracting climate change data yet produced data consistent with other meteorological records.
UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

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Court orders competency test for man accused of thefts

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
Kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

All court proceedings have been suspended until a competency test is done on a man who is accused of committing a string of burglaries last month.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho suspended all court proceedings for Martin T. Castro Jr. to allot time for a psychiatric examination to be completed and a report to be issued to determine whether he is competent enough to be tried in court.

Camacho ordered Castro to return to court on Dec. 4 for a status conference to discuss any progress in his case.

During the preliminary hearing for Castro yesterday, his lawyer, assistant public defender Karie Comstock, filed a motion for a psychiatric examination, along with a motion to continue the preliminary hearing.

Castro was remanded back to the Department of Corrections.

Castro, through his lawyer, voiced concerns about his safety at DOC, saying they are mistreating him there.

Camacho told Comstock that if Castro continues to complain about his treatment at DOC, she can advocate for him and, if she cannot find a solution with DOC, she was told to file a motion with the Superior Court.

Castro, 34, who was originally arrested for alleged involvement in three different burglary and theft cases, was arrested again last week for contempt of court after he reportedly violated the terms on his bail release.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Castro was arrested for his alleged involvement in three burglaries in July—two in Susupe and one in San Antonio.

Castro allegedly broke into a residence in Sunshine Garden, Susupe and stole a cellphone worth $700. He is also the suspect in a theft incident at Mo's Restaurant, Susupe and a theft that occurred in San Antonio on July 24 at a used car lot.

Soroptimist NMI donates to Karidat

By MARC VENUS
marc_venus@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The nonprofit group Soroptimist International NMI donated $500 worth of gift certificates to Karidat Social Services yesterday, in lieu of their traditional donation of backpacks filled with school supplies.

The organization donated 20 National Office Supply gift certificates worth $25 each to Karidat's domestic violence program, which usually provides shelter to victims and their children.

According to SINMI's Maureen Sebangiol, the gift certificates will be distributed by Karidat and would benefit children of domestic violence victims.

Sebangiol said they do this donation to Karidat each year. The group usually donates backpacks with school supplies for the children, just in time for the start of classes.

"We opted to do this because we figured that they get to help them out," Sebangiol said. "They are going through such a hard situation, and especially the kids."

She hopes that this donation would help cover the back-to-school costs of those who receive the gift certificates.

According to Karidat executive director Lauri Ogumoro, this will help mothers get their children ready for school. "Getting kids ready for school is always a trying time for a lot of families because it's expensive… and this [donation] is…a big help," Ogumoro said.

SINMI made the donation at the Karidat office at the Sister Remedios Community Center in Chalan Kanoa.

SINMI is a non-profit organization leading to empower women through education. Their signature project is the "Live Your Dream" award, which gives $1,000 to a woman attending college who is the primary financial support for her family.

From left to right, Soroptimist NMI president Donna Krum, Karidat Social Services executive director Lauri Ogumoro, and former Soroptimist NMI president Maureen Sebangiol. Soroptimist NMI donated 20 National Office Supply gift certificates worth $25 each to Karidat yesterday. MARC A. VENUS

Man pleads not guilty of domestic violence

A man who is accused of domestic violence has pleaded not guilty in Superior Court.

Peter John Aldan Blas, 29, who is charged with one count of domestic violence-disturbing the peace for an altercation that erupted between him and member of his household pleaded not guilty before Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert Naraja.

Blas, through Chief Public Defender Douglas Hartig, waived the formal reading of the charges against him and requested for a bail modification hearing.

Naraja accepted the plea and scheduled Blas to return for bail modification today. Blas's status conference is set for Sept. 24 at 1:30pm.

According to court information, Blas is charged with domestic violence-disturbing the peace of two household members. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Statewide Independent Living Council
"Yes I Can!"
P.O. Box 501521, SAIPAN, MP 96950 • Tel: (670) 322-6537/8 • Fax: (670) 322-6536
TTY: (670) 322-6549 • E-Mail: nmidir@ovrgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the public is advised that the Statewide Independent Living Council will hold its FY 2019 Third General Membership Meeting on Friday, August 23, 2019 at Fiesta Resort – Azucena Room from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

I. Call to Order
II. Roll Call
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda of August 23, 2019
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes of FY 2019 SILC Second General Membership Meeting Minutes of May 17, 2019.
V. Reports
- **A.** Statewide Independent Living Council Chairperson
- **B.** Center for Living Independently Executive Director
- **C.** Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Director

VI. New Business
- **A.** SILC Region 9 Teleconference/Webinar

VII. Announcements/Miscellaneous
VIII. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodation such as large print or sign language interpreter are asked to call Elvira Seman at 322-6537/38 (voice) or 322-6549 (TTY) no later than Tuesday, August 20, 2019.

/s/ **Gernadine Camacho**
SILC Chairperson

Publication of this notice is paid for by Federal funds made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Administration for Community Living (ACL).

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-19-028

REPLACEMENT OF SADOG TASI WWTP CLARIFIER

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified vendors for the Replacement of Sadog Tasi Clarifier Replacement in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The intent of the contract is for the Contractor to provide all labor, equipment, supplies and materials necessary to complete the scope of work which consists of installation of a new circular clarifier mechanism and replacement or repair of the effluent launder box; removal of the old circular clarifier mechanism and sections of the effluent launder box; replacement of the RFP weirs and scum baffle, installation of a new outer scum baffle; installation of new area lighting, wires, and conduit, and disconnect boxes; installation of a new process water spray system for foam control. The work shall include the dewatering and cleaning of aeration basin #3 and the clarifier; routing process flow and maintaining conditions during the construction period; and returning process flow from the aeration basin to the clarifier. The work shall be completed with minimal disruption to the daily operation of the Sadog Tasi Waste Water Treatment Plant. CUC requires the Project to be completed in 365 calendar days from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **$100.00** (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on August 22, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST) at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building. One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-IFB-19-028, Replacement of the Sadog Tasi Clarifier"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) September 6, 2019**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time.

Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on August 23, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Westen Knudsen, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email address westen.knudsen@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC P&S, Purchasing Technician, Senior – christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

WILLIAM GILMORE
Acting, Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

ESGR recognized for disaster recovery support

By IVA MAURIN
Iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios poses with Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve staff, reservists, and their employers after the proclamation signing yesterday at the Office of the Governor's conference room. IVA MAURIN

Civilians never see military reservists in action during combat. More often, military reservists are at the frontline of disaster relief, helping the civilian population recover. That much were evident in the aftermath of the Super Typhoon Yutu disaster that hit the CNMI last October.

"These folks were out there in the hot heat, helping this community recover at the most difficult time, at the most very trying situations," said Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios.

This tremendous help that the U.S. military plays in disaster response and relief was the focus of yesterday's ceremony, with Palacios signing a proclamation that declares the week of Aug. 19 to 23 as Employer Support of the Guard and Reserves Week. Palacios said the occasion serves to remind the community to remember "our first-hand experience with what these fine men and women can do for this nation and for our community."

Palacios also extended his appreciation to all employers for supporting their employees who are also reservists.

One such reservist during yesterday's proclamation signing was SPC Casey Obaldo, who attests how ESGR has helped her. "I work in the private sector and, with ESGR, I could go to annual trainings without hesitations [because] when I come back, I still have my job," Obaldo said.

CNMI ESGR chair Donald Clark also recognized the employers' willingness to make sacrifices and understand the importance of the role the Guards and Reserves play in the defense of the nation. Clark said with the natural disasters that come around, employers see first-hand what the reservists do in support of the island.

Clark also asked the reservists to inform ESGR if their employers do not understand their role. He assured them that ESGR would meet with the employers to help them be supportive and understanding of what the reservists do.

ESGR is the agency of the U.S. Department of Defense that supports National Guard and Reserve members with civilian jobs in addition to their military duties and their employers. The Guam Guard and Reserve/CNMI Reserve has the highest membership per capita anywhere in the United States.

THOMPSON LAW, LLC
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Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950
Telephone: (670) 233-0777
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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: ANUNCIACION MENDIOLA CAMACHO MAGOFNA a.k.a. "ASAKO" Decedent.) CIVIL ACTION NO. 19-0210) NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION and NOTICE TO CREDITORS) Date: Sept. 4, 2019 Time: 10:00 am Judge: Robert J. Naraja

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE ANUNCIACION MENDIOLA MAGOFNA aka ASAKO:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Petitioner, Froilan M. Camacho Jr., has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to issue Letters of Administration for the Estate of Anunciacion Mendiola Camacho Magofna, Decedent. The attorney for Petitioner is Colin M. Thompson whose address is the 2nd Floor of J.E. Tenorio Building Gualo Rai, Saipan, MP 96950.

The hearing on the Petition for Letters of Administration by Froilan M. Camacho Jr., as Petitioner, is scheduled to be heard on **September 4, 2019 at 10:00 am** on the 2nd Floor of Marianas Business Plaza. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing. Any and all persons, creditors or entities having claims against the Decedent or her estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within **Sixty (60) days** of the first publication, or the claim(s) will be barred. A copy of your claim should also be sent to **THOMPSON LAW, LLC** at the address herein-above indicated.

Dated this 15th day of August, 2019.

/s/ CLERK OF COURT

THOMPSON LAW, LLC
Colin M. Thompson
CNMI Bar No. F0221
2nd Floor, J.E. Tenorio Bldg.
PMB 917 Box 10001
Saipan MP 96950
Telephone No.: (670) 233-0777
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Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF MARIA HUANG JIN, Minor Child, By: Mei Huan Xuan. Petitioner.) FCD CIVIL ACTION NO. 19-0306) AMENDED ORDER SETTING HEARING AND PRESCRIBING NOTICE REGARDING ADOPTION OF MINOR CHILD

Petitioner, Mei Huan Xuan ("**Petitioner**"), petitioned to the Court for a decree granting her the right to adopt Maria Huang Jin, a female born at the Commonwealth Health Center on September 14, 2013 (the "**Minor Child**"), and terminating the parental rights of Hong Li Huang, the biological mother of the minor child. A hearing on the Petitioner's Petition for Adoption of Minor Child is hereby set for October 17, 2019, at 9:00 a.m. at the Tinian Courthouse before Judge Kenneth L. Govendo. Any interested party may appear at that hearing.

Petitioner shall publish notice of the October 17, 2019 hearing for the Petition for Adoption of Minor Child once at least one week before the hearing in a newspaper of general circulation in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Petitioner shall also post notice on the Saipan Courthouse Public Notice Board for a period of at least ten consecutive (10) calendar days before the set hearing date.

IT IS SO ORDERED, this 13th day of August, 2019.

HON. KENNETH L. GOVENDO
Associate Judge

Food stamp fraud lands storeowner, manager in prison

A store owner and store manager in Guam were sentenced in U.S. District Court last Friday to 12 months and one day in prison for food stamp fraud.

Singeo I. Singenes, 63, and Innocencia Esirom, 56, were sebtenced by Chief Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood. They were convicted of unauthorized use of food stamp benefits, in violation of Title 7, United States Code, Section 2024(b).

Each one received a sentence of 12 months and one day imprisonment to be followed by three years of supervised release

The court also ordered each defendant to pay a $100 special assessment fee and, jointly and severally, a total of $490,000 in restitution to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

Singenes owned and Esirom operated S&I Mart, a small convenience store in Barrigada, Guam, that has since closed.

On March 1, 2011, the USDA's Food and Nutrition Service authorized S&I Mart to participate in the agency's program known as SNAP, formerly the Food Stamp Program.

SNAP is a 100% federally funded program that provides financial aid to eligible recipients for use at authorized retail food stores. Under the program, SNAP recipients receive electronic benefits transfer authorization cards, or EBT, that operate as debit cards. Each month authorized recipients are issued certain amounts of SNAP benefits that could be accessed only with their EBT cards and encrypted personal identification numbers.

Under the program, Singenes and Esirom knew that SNAP benefits could not be accepted or redeemed in exchange for credit or loans, and that SNAP recipients could not be discriminated against by charging them interest or different prices, among other things.

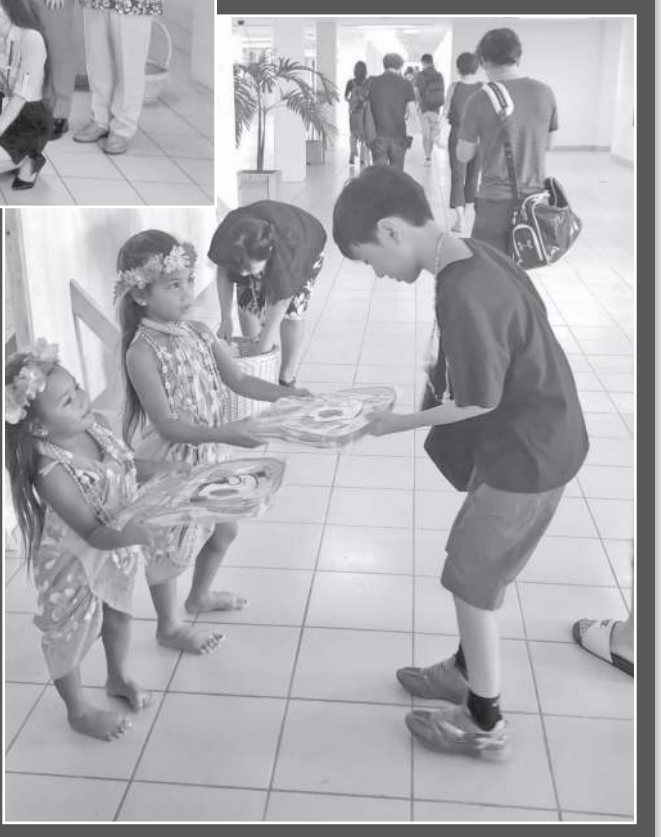
From March 1, 2011, to Sept. 1, 2013, the defendants defrauded the USDA and obtained SNAP benefits in exchange for extending credit to SNAP recipients. The two allowed SNAP recipients to purchase items on credit, and used their SNAP benefits from their EBT cards to pay off their credit balances at the beginning of the next month. The defendants also charged higher prices to SNAP recipients who purchased merchandise on credit and charged them a $20 late fee if they failed to pay their credit balances at the beginning of the following month. The practice of accepting SNAP benefits as payment on credit accounts or loans was a violation of the program and accounted for 90% of the store's sales.

"The USDA investigation revealed a continuous pattern of fraud by these defendants over a substantial period of time," said Shawn N. Anderson, U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands. "The SNAP program provides essential nutritional benefits to needy families nationwide. That these defendants would defraud not only the program but also the recipients is unconscionable. Our office will hold dishonest retailers accountable through prosecution and disqualification in an effort to maintain the integrity of this important program."

The Federal Bureau of Investigation and the USDA-Office of Inspector General investigated the case. The case was prosecuted by Marivic P. David, assistant U.S. attorney. ***(PR)***

WELCOME TO THE CNMI! MVA
Flight staff and crew of Skymark Airlines Inc. are welcomed by the Marianas Visitors Authority, PDM Promoters and Awaodori Dance group on Aug. 13, 2019, at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. Skymark will fly nine charter flights from Tokyo to Saipan in August and September.

Jeafanie Tibong of the Saipan Awaodori Group welcomes visitors from Japan to the Marianas last Aug. 9, 2019, at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. MVA



MVA
Ina and Julie Ann Mettao of the Saipan Awaodori Group presents Saipan-da backpacks to children arriving from Japan last Aug. 12, 2019, at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

NMDCI to hold membership meeting tomorrow

The Northern Marianas Descent Council Inc. will be having its first-ever membership meeting tomorrow at the Leadership Kiosku in Chalan Kanoa, across the U.S. Post Office.

According to NMDCI interim chair Juan Castro, the meeting will begin at 5:30pm and anyone may join the group the meeting.

Castro said the meeting will present the council's current construction and bylaws that have been incorporated last July 13. The group consists of about 30 members.

This first membership meeting will focus on establishing the group's goal of protecting the interests and benefits of NMDs. The group will also discuss other matters that concern NMDs. One issue discussed at the prior meeting was the CNMI government's loan with the Marianas Public Lands Trust. ***(Marc A. Venus)***

Flashback
A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

August 19, 2004

NMC gets, then loses proposed budget

Northern Marianas College was an inch away from getting a much needed $350,000 budget allocation—the amount it says it desperately needs to survive up to December this year—when two minority congressmen raised concerns on its legality during yesterday's session. House Bill 14-187, an appropriation bill that was revised to include a $350,000 allocation for NMC from the Tobacco Control Fund, was up for passage yesterday when Saipan Rep. Arnold Palacios expressed his concern about the "substantial funding" that the Legislature is extending NMC. He noted that the Legislature had just authorized the governor to reprogram $300,000 from the Tobacco Control Fund for NMC last June.

MVA sees added visitors

With the launching of Cape Air flights servicing the CNMI and Guam, the Marianas Visitors Authority sees improved tourist traffic between the islands, consistent with collaborative efforts to promote the entire Micronesia as a tourist destination. MVA managing director Vicky Benavente noted the flights' exponential impact to the tourism industry, besides providing more airline seats and reduced airfare for passengers. The partnership between Cape Air and Continental Airlines, dubbed as the Continental Connection, brings to seven the number of daily flights for the Guam-Rota-Saipan flights. Cape Air uses 46-seater ATR-42 aircraft that service the islands.

August 19,2005

EPA shuts down CHC's incinerator

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has ordered the Commonwealth Health Center to halt operations of its medical waste incinerator. According to an EPA news release yesterday, the CHC has violated the Federal Clean Air Act standards, necessitating the closure of the incinerator. The public hospital has agreed to comply with the EPA order by ceasing operations of its medical waste incinerator by January 2006. CHC also agreed to put up an alternative medical waste treatment method in place. U.S. EPA air division director for Pacific Southwest region Deborah Jordan said that medical waste incinerators must be operated in a way that protects the public health in the CNMI.

Sarigan seismic swarm calms down

The seismic swarm on Sarigan Island has been tapering off since Wednesday, the Emergency Management Office and the U.S. Geological Survey said.

Since Tuesday last week, though, Sarigan's seismic station recorded more than 705 earthquakes. The agencies also reported that tremor levels on Anatahan ranged from 25 to 50 percent of peak levels, but added that an earthquake triggered an equipment alarm, possibly indicating a strong volcanic eruption.

They said the alarm occurred at about 3:21pm Thursday and lasted one minute. The agencies also said that long-period earthquakes have been sporadic. Yesterday morning, the agencies said an ash plume from Anatahan's volcano rose to 15,000 feet and moved northeasterly.

August 19,2008

Bill setting delegate polls procedures passes House

The House of Representatives has passed a bill that establishes procedures for the election of a CNMI delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives. With a majority 16-3 vote, the House approved House Bill 16-112. Reps. Heinz Hofschneider, Tina Sablan, and Oscar Babauta voted against the bill during Monday's session. The bill calls for the election of delegate at the special election on Nov. 4, 2008, and at such elections every two years thereafter. Under the proposed measure, the governor shall reprogram $60,000 from the Office of the Resident Representative's account to the Commonwealth Election Commission for the first delegate election.

House OKs bill for autonomous hospital, DPH

The House has unanimously approved a bill that seeks to establish a self-governing entity, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., which will govern an autonomous Commonwealth Health Center. Introduced by Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider, House Bill 16-9 passed the House's final reading with a 16-0 vote during Monday's session. The bill now goes to the Senate. House Committee on Health, Education, and Welfare chair Rep. Ralph DLG. Torres told Saipan Tribune yesterday that his committee, Hofschneider, and Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez have been working closely to see so it that there would be a smooth transition period when the legislation becomes law.

Commerce clarifies: We are doing household surveys

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A representative of the CNMI Department of Commerce clarified last week that the department is not preparing for the decennial CNMI Census, but rather the CNMI-wide household surveys.

CNMI Central Statistics Division director Justin Andrew notified *Saipan Tribune* that the Department of Commerce is starting preparations for the CNMI Household Survey/Census Map and Address Register Update, not the 2020 Census.

"This survey [or] census map and address register update is not related and has nothing to do with the 2020 Census. The update is a local initiative that serves the needs of our locally-run household surveys," he wrote.

According to a statement from the Torres administration, the Commerce Department is set to conduct the 2019 CNMI Household Survey/Census Map and Address Register this month beginning on Tinian in mid-August, Rota in early September, and on Saipan in mid-September.

"Keeping an accurate count of homes and their respective conditions, as well as accounting for the number of residents we have in the CNMI are vital resources for policymaking. This information will provide a better understanding of our resources following the devastation of Super Typhoon Yutu," Torres said in the statement.

Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios added that the data collected will influence how the administration comes up with policies across the board.

Commerce Secretary Mark Rabauliman was quoted in the statement as saying that this survey only happens once in 10 years.

"…Although we are only describing houses and taking a count of people, the operation provides a wealth of information that our policymakers and business leaders can use for economic development and social improvements," he said.

"My [Central Statistics Division] staff and all temporary mappers have been sworn to uphold the confidentiality of all information collected under the CNMI Statistical Act of 1990, and I urge our residents and community to take some time to welcome our mappers to their neighborhoods and villages to help complete this important project," he added.

Scheduled water service interruptions

There will be daily scheduled water service interruptions beginning Wednesday, Aug. 21, to Friday, Aug. 23, from 8:30am to 3:30pm, for the areas of As Matuis, San Roque, Achugao, Tanapag, and portions of As Mahetog. Customers in the affected areas should expect restoration of water services soon after.

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s contractor, AIC Marianas Inc., and leak detection personnel will be conducting leak detections for damaged water lines, along with repairs throughout the affected areas as part of an ongoing leak detection and repair project. This project will enhance CUC's capability to isolate problematic areas in the future to perform repairs and maintenance and reduce inconvenience to our consumers. For the safety of our men and women working at the site, motorists are advised to proceed with caution and take alternative routes when traveling by the area.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(PR)***

SUMMER INTERNSHIP CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan International School senior Anika Snyder works at the Reitzel Lab at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte as part of her summer internship. She worked to identify the types of algae living within the coral samples. Other photo shows Snyder presenting the results of her summer internship to new faculty members from the University of North Carolina Charlotte.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SSHS orientation set

Saipan Southern High School orientation for new students, 9th graders, and their parents will be held on Aug. 29, 2019, Thursday, from 8:30am to 11:30am, at the SSHS campus. Parents will have their orientation from 8:30am to 9:30am, while students will have their orientation from 8:30am to 11:30a. Please bring your own water and snacks. ***(PR)***

Kagman Elementary School schedules

- **Aug. 28:** Parents/student orientation for Kindergarten to Grade 2 is from10am to 11am, school cafeteria
- **Aug. 29:** Parents/student orientation for grades 3 to 5 is from 10am to 11am, school cafeteria
- **Sept. 3:** First day of instruction for all students (K-5th), from 7:40am to 2:40pm

During the parent and student orientation day, the teachers will be present to meet with parents and to share instructional goals and expectations for the school year. For more information, call 237-3146/3150. ***(PR)***

Open house tomorrow at Saipan airport

The Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport will be holding an open house meeting tomorrow, Aug. 21, 2019, from 6pm to 8pm, at the Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Building located at 1 Fadang at the Saipan airport. The open house will discuss the ongoing airport master plan study. The consultant team will also be available to answer questions.

Should you require additional information, contact Wendi L. Prater, executive assistant/project manager, or Saipan airport manager William Camacho at (670) 237-6500. ***(PR)***

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXIX, Issue No. 164

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
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LAS VEGAS SUN 2019
SO WHAT DID YOU LEARN ON YOUR FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL? MATH? READING? SCIENCE?
THE ACTIVE SHOOTER DRILL.

EDITORIAL

History seems to be repeating in Russia, China

By ANN MCFEATTERS
Tribune News Service

Ann McFeatters is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service*. Readers may send her email at amcfeatters@nationalpress.com.*

WASHINGTON—It's beginning to feel like 1980s news tape showing America's despotic enemies running amok.

In Russia, a mysterious fatal explosion a few days ago in one of the country's 10 secret cities where nuclear research takes place has caused an uptick in radiation and raised alarm around the world.

It also raises memories of the 1986 meltdown at the Ukrainian nuclear power plant Chernobyl, which Russia tried desperately to hush up, lying repeatedly about how serious it was. An estimated 4,000 people died; new cancers are still appearing. It could be 20,000 years before the site is safe.

In Hong Kong, a huge Chinese military presence is threatening to put down the pro-democracy movement, bringing to mind the 1989 slaughter at Tiananmen Square in Beijing when military tanks fired on and rolled over students, killing and injuring thousands.

As a reporter I covered aspects of both stories and eventually went to both sites. The silence at Chernobyl was chilling; abandoned toys strewn around in evidence that normal life was over. Radiation from the meltdown spread around the globe.

In Beijing the absolute lack of any indication of what had happened in Tiananmen was equally horrifying. People were terrified to talk about what they had seen.

The current incident in Russia apparently involved a disaster over Vladimir Putin's promise to his people that he would build a cruise missile with a conventional warhead powered by an onboard nuclear reactor with a range that easily could take it to the United States. It's called Skyfall. Whatever the project, five Russian nuclear scientists reportedly died, possibly thrown into the White Sea. Two other state employees were also killed.

Doctors who treated the victims of the explosion were themselves taken to Moscow to be treated for radiation exposure. The people who live near the explosion have been given one conflicting story after another. All they know for certain is that radiation levels spiked at least 16 times higher than normal right after the explosion.

In Hong Kong, long a British protectorate now controlled by China, demands by protesters for democratic reforms, including dismantling a new law that permits Hong Kong

See HISTORY on Next Page

An easy fix for Social Security

By NANCY ALTMAN
Los Angeles Times

Nancy Altman is president of Social Security Works and chairwoman of the Strengthen Social Security coalition.

Eighty-four years ago Wednesday, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Social Security into law. He advised future generations to continue building on the program's foundation, which he explained "represents a cornerstone in a structure which is being built but is by no means complete."

Recognizing Social Security's importance to the economic security of working families, policymakers followed FDR's direction and expanded it regularly—until 1972. In the years since, politicians have increasingly seen government, to quote Ronald Reagan, not as "the solution to our problem" but as "the problem." Not coincidentally, Congress has not passed legislation to expand Social Security in more than four decades.

Nor has any action been taken to increase Social Security's dedicated revenue, despite the fact that a modest shortfall—projected to begin in 2035—was first reported to Congress in 1989.

When a shortfall was reported to Congress in 1975, legislation was enacted in 1977. When a new projected shortfall was reported in 1979, Congress again reacted relatively quickly, passing legislation in 1983. In contrast, three decades have passed without action to address a shortfall first identified in 1989.

Notwithstanding that failure to act, Social Security's current projected shortfall, modest in size and still years away, is not a "crisis," as too many politicians assert, but a call for simple maintenance. If your car needs an oil change, it's not a crisis. But if you do nothing, and wait until your engine is blown, it can become a crisis.

We are still 16 years away from a blown engine. The commonsense maintenance needed is twofold. Congress should increase Social Security's revenue, as it did about every other year, on average, between 1950 and 1983. And Social Security benefits, which average only about $16,000 a year per person, should be increased.

This is particularly important given that the country is facing a looming retirement income crisis, which means Social Security will be more important than ever. Only 22% of today's workers have traditional pensions, and nearly half of those 55 and older have no retirement savings.

Fortunately, one chamber of Congress is on the verge of acting. The Social Security 2100 Act, introduced by Rep. John B. Larson of Connecticut and co-sponsored by 210 of his fellow Democrats, is expected to pass the House of Representatives this fall. The bill expands Social Security's benefits for all current and future beneficiaries. It also switches to a more accurate measure of inflation to adjust benefits so they don't erode in value. Additionally, the bill increases Social Security's minimum benefit so that workers do not retire into poverty after a lifetime of contributing to the program.

The Social Security 2100 Act would ensure that all benefits could be paid in full and on time through the year 2100. It would require the wealthiest Americans, who currently stop paying into Social Security after their first $132,900 in earnings, to again pay into the program once their earnings rise above $400,000.

It also includes a gradual increase in the contribution rate, from the current 6.2% to 7.4% in 2043—nearly a quarter of a century from now. That is an annual increase of just 5/100ths of a% on employee and employer contributions to Social Security each week. For workers earning $50,000, that's a mere 50 cents a week increase per year.

This contribution rate increase is much smaller than increases enacted by past Congresses. In 1973, the rate increased by 0.65% in just one year. That's 13 times larger than the current proposed annual increase.

According to the chief actuary of the Social Security Administration, millennials would pay, on average, an extra $15,500 toward Social Security during their careers, as would their employers. In return, they would get over $80,000 more in retirement benefits than they would without the 2100 Act. And if they became disabled or died leaving dependents, those Social Security benefits would be larger too.

Polling shows that Americans across the political spectrum are willing to pay more to protect and expand Social Security. Yet not a single Republican member of Congress has co-sponsored the Social Security 2100 Act. Nor have any of them offered any alternative legislation.

See SECURITY on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Create your personal Medicare account

By GREG DILL
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Greg Dill is Medicare's regional administrator for Arizona, California, Nevada, Hawaii, and the Pacific territories. You can always get answers to your Medicare questions by calling 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227).

Would you like for a family member or caregiver to be able to call Medicare on your behalf?

Would you like a way to store all your health records in one place online, so you can quickly share them with a new doctor or other healthcare provider?

How about an easy way to print a new Medicare card if you lose yours? Or a quick way to see what preventive health services, like cancer screenings and vaccinations, are available to you?

You can do all that and more by creating a free, secure MyMedicare.gov account.

To create an account, go to MyMedicare.gov. You'll be asked to provide a username and password. You'll also need to enter your Medicare number as it appears on your red, white, and blue Medicare card.

Once you've completed your online registration, you can sign in to MyMedicare.gov and start using the site. Medicare will mail you a confirmation letter containing the password you created, in case you forget it. (Make sure you list the address that Social Security or the Railroad Retirement Board has on file for you.) We'll also send a confirmation email if you gave us your email address during registration.

MyMedicare.gov is available in English and Spanish.

Once you have created a MyMedicare.gov account, you can:

- Check your Medicare claims as soon as they are processed.
- Find your eligibility, entitlement, and preventive service information.
- Check your Medicare health plan and prescription drug enrollment information.
- View your Part B deductible information.
- Manage your prescription drug list and other personal health information.
- Create an "On the Go Report" that allows you to print your health information to share with your healthcare providers.

So how do you authorize Medicare to discuss your records and benefits with a family member or caregiver?

Medicare can't give personal health information about you to anyone unless you give permission in writing first. To do this, sign in to your MyMedicare.gov account and fill out form CMS-10106: "Authorization to Disclose Personal Health Information."

You can fill out and submit the form online by following these steps:

1. Navigate to the "My Account" tab.
2. Click "Authorized Representative."
3. Click "Medicare Authorization to Disclose Personal Health Information form."
4. Enter the requested information and click the "Continue" button.

Or you can print and mail form-10106 to us.

If you have Original Medicare, you can check your Medicare claims as they appear in your MyMedicare.gov account. Just sign in and follow these steps:

1. Click on the "Claims" tab. From there, you can view claims that have been processed in the past 15 months.
2. Select the type of claim and then the appropriate date range from the list.
3. Click the "Submit" button to begin the search.
4. After you search, select any of the blue claim numbers to see additional details.

Why is it important to check your Medicare claims? Because it helps protect both you and Medicare against fraud. The sooner you see and report inaccurate claims, or claims for services you never received, the sooner we can stop fraud.

Keep in mind that if you're in a Medicare Advantage (Part C) plan, or a prescription drug (Part D) plan, you can't view claims for these plans on MyMedicare.gov. Call your plan for more information about a claim.

For more information on MyMedicare.gov, go to https://www.mymedicare.gov/helppages/gettingstarted/register/.

If you don't have a MyMedicare.gov account, you can still check your Original Medicare claims by calling 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) and using the automated phone system.

Greg Dill is Medicare's regional administrator for Arizona, California, Nevada, Hawaii, and the Pacific territories. You can always get answers to your Medicare questions by calling 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227).

HISTORY

From Page 10

citizens to be extradited to and prosecuted by mainland China, are being met with full-blown police violence.

It should be noted here that China is expected to surpass the U.S. as the world's largest consumer market by 2021. China already has 55% of the global e-commerce market. At the same time there are plans for a glorious 70th anniversary celebration of the rule of communism in China on Oct. 1. If China sends in mobilized troops against the protesters at Hong Kong's airport, it will spark international anger.

"I hope it works out for everybody, China included," said the U.S. president, Donald Trump, noncomittally, after tweeting that China is massing troops at the border. He did not echo the State Department's statement endorsing the freedom of protesters to assemble.

Actually, we have no idea what Trump's policy is on China. He has started a trade war that is slowly choking U.S. farmers and costing the average American family about $700 more a year for everyday goods. He says he and Chinese President Xi Jinping have a great relationship, but there is no agreement on how to resolve the trade dispute. We have stopped demanding that China subscribe to international codes of human rights.

We also don't know what Trump's real policy is toward Russia. He has not sympathized with pro-democracy protesters challenging Putin in Moscow. He has dismantled decades of arms control agreements with Russia. He tried desperately to build a hotel in Moscow. His campaign had dozens of contacts with Russia, lying about most of them. He has held private meetings with Putin without permitting any U.S. officials in the room. He laughed when he sarcastically answered a reporter's query by saying, oh yeah, Vladimir, don't interfere in U.S. elections again.

Currently, Trump seems to have no words of wisdom for Russia as it continues to obfuscate and tries to contain the damage, literally and figuratively, from its latest nuclear explosion.

How many times can we say it? Those who can't remember the past are condemned to repeat it. Those who don't learn history are doomed to repeat it.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Kudos

I was truly glad to see Nola Hix and other leaders of the CNMI starting a real protest against all the things that are going wrong with our government. For sure, I have been writing about and complaining about all the things they mentioned that are of major concerns to many citizens living in the CNMI. Hix was right to say that "people should rise up," which is only half of the solution to the problem because the bigger part of the problem and challenge is purely political! If our government is truly the real problem, then the answer to fixing this problem can only be political!

Unlike, Mrs. Hix, I don't have to play the game of being "politically correct" when it comes to these demonstrations and the need for political change. But what caught my attention was one commenter who seemed to want to keep the protest non-political. Well, the people who don't think this is or should be a political game don't really understand the problem because it is the "politics" of our governor and his party that is the problem. There is no way to avoid the political aspect of the real problem, which is a need to "fix our government" with the proper checks and balances between our Legislature and our governor. So, if we truly want to stop our runaway government that is full of "abuses of power, nepotism, corruption, racism, and a host of other bad attributes" and make it work properly, we need to find the political answer to the problem. If we have a political problem, logic dictates a political solution.

The fact is our democracy is dead and we need to find a political solution to revive our democracy. As for the commenter who seems to think I am playing some kind of political game, they sound like a GOP emissary even if they aren't trying to a put a spin on the protest as to how it should not be political! FYI, this is not a game; this is real life, with real consequences. But most importantly, of all the attacks and character assassination attempts made on me, no one has ever been able to call me a liar! So, truth is what it is and disagreeing with it or putting a spin on it still won't change the fact that it was the truth!

It is truly "time to take action" like Mrs. Hix said and I must commend her and the others for getting something started and we the people must keep up as I will certainly be attending! But what action(s) beyond protesting is the real question that needs to be answered. Rising up and complaining alone is not going to fix our government as our situation requires new leaders and for existing leaders to unify the majority of voters to fix the problem. We need a unified position as well as a unified leadership because if we don't achieve the two primary goals of unification as voters and leaders, the GOP will win again and we will lose!

I was truly glad to see Independents and Democrats at the protest together but if Independents and Democrats don't join forces as a party, they will simply cancel each other out in the voting booth and our governor and the GOP will win again. This is basic political science.

Our governor also knows that voters have short memories and he is also making a safe bet that our economy will start to turn around before election season, which somehow seems to happen entirely too often. The governor is counting on voters to do just like they did in his last election by saying to themselves: "Let him finish what he started." So we the people need to keep meeting on austerity Fridays and to build our numbers by telling a friend to tell another friend to join in the movement for change led by Mrs. Hix, our Washington delegate and Independents. Do like Dr. King taught us in the civil rights movement: "Keep our eyes on the prize and everyday is a day-on until the battle has been won" (until our government is fixed and working properly). I would also like to share some of the positive comments and one more negative comment that were posted to the article on Mrs. Hix:

- I am glad people are finding the courage and speaking out now. Hopefully, something good comes out of this.
- Impeach the governor, lieutenant governor, the entire Legislature. The feds are waiting for the CNMI to implode so they can take over!
- Yes, rise up, CNMI □□□
- Government of NMDs, by NMDs and for NMDs. Racism does exist in the CNMI. Last I heard, this is a government of, for, and by all the people living and voting in the CNMI, not just for locals.

I pray Mrs. Hix and the rest will continue to take this political fight for all the people in the CNMI. Kudos and keep it up, Independents and Democrats, because unity is the only way to take down this GOP government.

Ambrose M Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

SECURITY

From Page 10

As Larson recently wrote, "The hard truth of the matter is that Republicans want to cut Social Security, and doing nothing achieves their goal." If Congress fails to act before 2035, the chief actuary has projected that benefits will be cut by 20%. That would be a victory for the anti-government, anti-worker ideology of some of the wealthiest donors to the Republican Party.

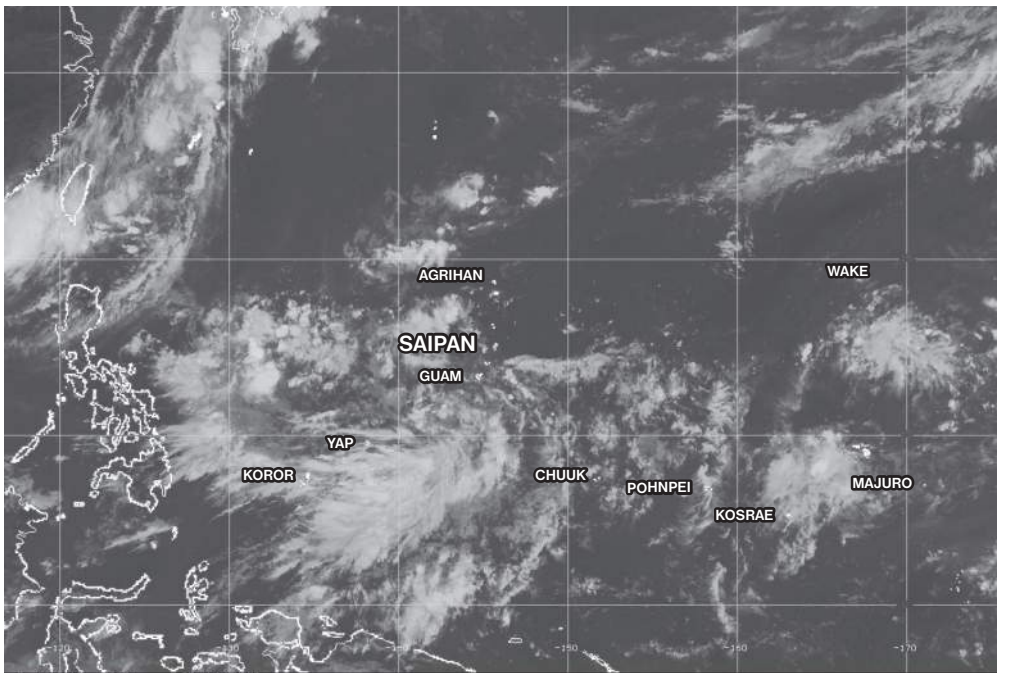
Even though we are living in polarized political times, this is one issue on which most of us agree. An overwhelming majority of Democratic, Republican and independent voters support making sure Social Security can remain a bedrock of American retirement. Democrats in Congress are following their lead. Their Republican colleagues should too.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly sunny with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southwest winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Scattered afternoon showers for Guam.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers, except for afternoon scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms for Guam.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
88° 76°	88° 76°	89° 77°	89° 78°	89° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:55 AM, MONDAY, AUGUST 19, 2019
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Early morning showers have moved out of the area to the northwest leaving drier conditions in the Marianas. Deep convection remains well to the southeast and south, but will be slower to return to the area. Showers and thunderstorms are expected to increase again this evening.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	87° / 76°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	87° / 76°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	57° / 52°
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	99° / 73°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	88° / 81°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	89° / 78°
London	Mostly Sunny	70° / 55°
Los Angeles	Sunny	82° / 66°
Manila	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Melbourne	Showers	57° / 48°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	86° / 80°
New York	Thunderstorms	88° / 75°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	88° / 79°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	73° / 52°
Busan	Thunderstorms	82° / 79°
Rome	Sunny	93° / 70°
Salem	Thunderstorms	89° / 71°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	66° / 56°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	88° / 72°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	90° / 75°
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	94° / 74°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
4:41 AM	LOW TIDE	0.89
10:07 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.76
4:42 PM	LOW TIDE	0.56
10:54 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.86

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:03 AM	6:37 PM
Wednesday	6:03 AM	6:37 PM
Thursday	6:03 AM	6:35 PM
Friday	6:03 AM	6:35 PM
Saturday	6:03 AM	6:35 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Tuesday	-	9:30 AM	9:46 PM
Wednesday	-	10:17 AM	10:23 PM
Thursday	-	11:05 AM	11:03 PM
Friday	-	11:56 AM	11:45 PM
Saturday	-	12:49 AM	-

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 15, 2019

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	10:00am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:30am	6:30am	4
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:35am	1, 2, 3, 5, 7
7C3403	5:00am	8:30am	4
7C3403	5:00am	8:50am	6
7C3401	4:10pm	7:45pm	4, 7
7C3401	4:10pm	8:10pm	1, 2, 3, 5, 6

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	12:05pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA117/183	9:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:35am	8:25am	1
UO43	5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:15am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	3

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:10pm	Daily
TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	1, 2, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:40pm	4:10am+1	3, 5

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	8:50pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	8:10pm	3:10am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:50pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA192/174	9:45pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174	10:25pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/174	11:30pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:20pm	00:30am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:25pm	1:20am+1	7
UO42	9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	10:45pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; BC SkyMark ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

Kensington takes further step to go green

Kensington Hotel Saipan has been making efforts to incorporate more green practices into everyday operation. In addition to continued campaigns to change bed linens less often or to reduce food waste, the five-star hotel makes further attempts for a sustainable environment.

Being aware of growing concerns toward massive plastic use, the hotel recently terminated the use of plastic straws at all of its restaurant outlets and bars, and replaced them with paper ones. The hotel unfolded its "Skip Straws" campaign last April to minimize the use of straws. Some of the plastic one-time use cups are also swapped with reusable glass cups. The cups are used when serving welcome drinks for all check-in guests and free shaved-ice refreshments at the main pool.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Kensington Hotel Saipan recently terminated the use of plastic straws at all of its restaurant outlets and bars, and replaced them with paper ones.

Kensington Hotel Saipan's "Skip Straws" campaign was launched just last April.

"This is just the beginning, but we believe that every small action counts. We will keep steering our operation into a more eco-friendly direction, and we are very hopeful because more and more guests are agreeing with us," said Matthew Park, the president of E-Land Group Hotels in Saipan.

He adds, "To exert our environmental responsibility, we also have been supporting Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance's initiatives. We will resume E-Land Environmental Youth Alliance program through which we sponsored environmental club activities of schools in Saipan. Kensington Hotel and PIC Saipan, its sister resort, will continue to contemplate and implement ways to minimize negative impacts to the environment while we are doing business." ***(PR)***

Some of Kensington Hotel Saipan's plastic one-time use cups have also been swapped with reusable glass cups.

Leaked UK memos warn of food, drug shortages in Brexit chaos

LONDON (AP)—Secret British government documents have warned of serious disruptions across the country in the event that the U.K. leaves the European Union without a trade deal on Oct. 31, according to a report.

The Sunday Times newspaper published what it said was what the British government expects in the case of a sudden, "no-deal" Brexit. Among the most serious: "significant" disruptions to the supply of drugs and medicine, a decrease in the availability of fresh food and even potential fresh water shortages due to possible interruptions of imported water treatment chemicals.

Although the grim scenarios reportedly outlined in the government documents have long been floated by academics and economists, they've been repeatedly dismissed as scaremongering by Brexit proponents.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has said he is ready to leave the EU regardless of whether he is able to renegotiate the Brexit deal struck with Brussels by his predecessor, Theresa May.

His own officials, however, have warned that with a no-deal Brexit, the sharing of law enforcement data and the health of Britain's crucial financial services industry could be in jeopardy after Oct. 31.

The documents published by the Times also quote officials as warning that up to 85% of all trucks wouldn't be ready for French customs at the critical English Channel crossing that day, causing lines that could stretch out for days. Some 75% of all drugs coming into Britain arrive via that crossing, the memos warned, "making them particularly vulnerable to severe delays."

The officials foresee "critical elements" of the food supply chain being affected that would "reduce availability and choice and increase the price, which will affect vulnerable groups."

Britain's Cabinet Office didn't return a message seeking comment on the documents, but Michael Gove, the British minister in charge of no-deal preparations, insisted that the files represented a "worst case scenario."

Very "significant steps have been taken in the last 3 weeks to accelerate Brexit planning," he said in a message posted to Twitter.

But the documents, which are titled "planning assumptions," mention a "base scenario," not a "worst case" one. The Times quoted an unnamed Cabinet Office source as saying the memos were simply realistic assessments of what was most likely to happen.

Trade war's losers could include microchips, energy, banks

NEW YORK (AP)—Looking across the stock market, it's hard to find a company that isn't vulnerable in some degree to the U.S.-China trade war.

Stocks of companies that do lots of business with China, such as chipmakers and other technology companies, are obvious candidates for investors to sell when trade worries rise. They have fallen more than the rest of the market whenever President Donald Trump sends out a tweet or speaks about tariffs.

But investors are also looking beyond these first-order effects as they pick out which stocks look susceptible to the trade war. Those picks now include many companies that have no significant ties to China but are still at risk.

That's why all but 2% of the stocks in the S&P 500 fell on Aug. 5, when worries ratcheted higher after China let its currency devalue to its lowest level in a decade.

The damage has been widespread since Trump shocked investors on Aug. 1 by saying he planned soon to extend tariffs across virtually all Chinese imports.

The latest tariffs cover about $300 million of Chinese goods, many of them consumer products that were exempt from early rounds of taxes. Even though Trump has delayed some of the tariffs, they will ultimately raise costs for U.S. companies bringing goods in from China. Those companies will then have to either pass higher prices on to their customers or give up some of their profits. That's a big deal for investors because a stock's price tends to track the path of its earnings over the long term.

One concern is that all the uncertainty on trade will lead businesses and shoppers to hold off on spending in hopes of waiting out the tumult. Businesses say they have seen inklings of such behavior, which, if it accelerates, could lead to a self-fulfilling cycle where weaker sales for companies push them to cut back on hiring. That could lead in turn to even weaker spending and do more damage to the economy. That's trouble for most companies, to some degree.

It's also why some of the hardest-hit stocks in recent weeks have little business, if any, in China but remain vulnerable to the consequences of the trade war. Among the losers in the dispute:

ENERGY COMPANIES

Energy stocks in the S&P 500 have plunged 10.2% since just before Trump sent his Aug. 1 tweet, the worst decline of the 11 sectors that make up the index.

National Oilwell Varco, for example, is based in Houston and gets most of its revenue from supplying drilling and other technologies in the United States, Saudi Arabia, Brazil and Norway. But its stock has plunged nearly 22%, seven times the loss of the overall S&P 500.

That's in large part because the price of oil has sunk on worries that the trade war will do lasting damage to the global economy. If that happens, countries around the world will have less need to burn oil. The price of benchmark U.S. crude plunged nearly 8% on Aug. 1, its worst day in 4½ years.

BANKS

Financial stocks have been the second-worst performing sector in the S&P 500 in recent weeks as the prospect of less-profitable lending threatens banks' profits.

Comerica, for instance, has been sucked into an industrywide downdraft. It is based in Dallas and has bank branches mostly in Arizona, California, Florida, Texas and Michigan. It has some businesses operating outside the country, but in Canada and Mexico, not China. Its stock has sunk 16.2% during the recent pick-up in trade tensions.

Nation

Far-right and antifa groups both claim victory at Portland

AP
A "Banana Bloc Dance Party" gathering is held near Battleship Oregon Memorial Marine Park on Saturday, Aug. 17, 2019, in downtown Portland, Ore.

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—With both the left and the right declaring victory following a long-hyped rally that had Portland, Oregon, on edge it seems the liberal city will continue to be a flashpoint in an increasingly divided country.

City officials were mostly relieved that a downtown gathering Saturday of more than 1,000 far-right protesters and anti-fascist counter-demonstrators wasn't as violent as feared.

"I'm grateful this was largely a peaceful event," Mayor Ted Wheeler said. "We were preparing for and planning for a worst-case scenario."

There were 13 arrests and police seized bear spray, shields, poles and other weapons. But by using barriers and bridge closures—and allowing a large contingent of right-wingers to leave when they asked to—authorities were able to mostly keep the two sides apart. Six minor injuries were reported.

Joe Biggs, the organizer of the right-wing gathering that featured the Proud Boys, Patriot Prayer and other far-right groups, said they accomplished their goal of drawing attention to black-clad anti-fascist protesters—known as antifa—who showed up to meet them.

President Donald Trump tweeted early Saturday that "major consideration is being given to naming ANTIFA an 'ORGANIZATION of TERROR.'" It wasn't immediately clear what he meant by that because there's no mechanism for the United States government to declare a domestic organization a terror group.

Biggs told The Oregonian/OregonLive he was pleased the rally attracted Trump's attention.

"He talked about Portland, said he's watching antifa. That's all we wanted," he said.

Biggs said he and the right-wing groups would keep coming back to Portland so long as antifa was around.

But Eric K. Ward, executive director of the Portland-based Western States Center, said the right-wing rally was a bust.

"Portland won today, and far-right leaders like Joey Gibson and Joe Biggs lost," Ward said in a statement.

The Western States Center stated mission is to increase inclusive democracy.

In an interview, Ward said Biggs' groups cut short a planned five-hour rally after only one hour and left.

"The white nationalist, alt-right coalition that came to Portland were denied what they sought to create, which was large-scale civil disturbances," Ward said.

While antifa protesters get a lot of attention, Ward said there were many others who came out to oppose the right-wing groups. He also praised police and city officials for their actions.

"What I saw yesterday was the first step in Portland really putting together a citywide response," he said.

Wheeler, Portland's mayor, said at a Saturday evening news conference that Biggs and anyone espousing hate or violence was not welcome.

"We do not want him here in my city. Period," Wheeler said.

Wheeler tied the demonstrations to "a rising white nationalist movement" and a growing sense of fear in the country.

"Portland being a very progressive community is always going to be at or near ground zero of this battle."

Wheeler emphasized that there are hundreds of protests every year in Portland, and most don't get any attention.

The latest rally began late Saturday morning. Flag-waving members of the Proud Boys, Three Percenters militia group and others gathered downtown, some wearing body armor and helmets like the antifa protesters.

New York City subway scare suspect taken into police custody

NEW YORK (AP)—A homeless man from West Virginia faced charges Saturday for allegedly placing two devices that looked like pressure cookers in a New York City subway station, forcing an evacuation and snarling the morning commute, police said.

Larry Kenton Griffin II, of Bruno, West Virginia, was awaiting arraignment late Saturday in Manhattan's central booking after he was released from a New York hospital where he was being treated and under observation. Police did not specify what, if any, injuries or condition he was being treated for.

Police announced on Saturday evening that Griffin, 26, was charged with the placing of a false bomb. He was taken into police custody just after midnight Saturday in the Bronx, a day after he was seen in surveillance video at Manhattan's Fulton subway station holding one of the objects police identified as rice cookers and determined they were not explosives.

A West Virginia sheriff's department said Griffin had a criminal history in the state.

The Logan County Sheriff's Department said it has arrested him at least three times in the past eight years, including a 2017 arrest on charges alleging he sent obscene material to a minor.

Griffin's cousin Tara Brumfield told a Huntington, West Virginia, television station that he is a good person who has been dealing with mental health issues.

Offering a possible explanation for his involvement with the rice cookers, she said Griffin has a habit of picking up items in one place and putting them down in another.

"Whether it's tools or a fishing pole or something like that like he'll pick up one thing and leave it there and then pick up another and then leave it there and I've watched him do stuff like that a bunch of times," she told the station, WSAZ-TV.

It wasn't immediately known if Griffin had a lawyer representing him in the New York case.

New York City police said security cameras captured a man pulling the cookers out of a shopping cart and placing them in the Fulton Street subway station near the World Trade Center in lower Manhattan.

A third cooker of the same make, year and model was found about 2 miles away (3 kilometers) on a sidewalk in the Chelsea neighborhood, prompting another police investigation.

Police stressed at a news conference on Friday that it wasn't clear if the man was trying to frighten people or merely throwing the objects away.

"I would stop very short of calling him a suspect," said John Miller, the New York Police Department's top counterterror official.

"It is possible that somebody put out a bunch of items in the trash today and this guy picked them up and then discarded them, or it's possible that this was an intentional act."

Police tracked Griffin down about 13 hours after releasing a flyer asking people to help them identify him. Social media posts from the department described him as a person of interest who was wanted for questioning. The Logan County Sheriff's Department said it assisted an FBI task force by speaking with Griffin's relatives in hopes of obtaining his possible location.

Dozens of suspicious packages are reported daily in the city, but the proximity of the subway station to the site of the Sept. 11 attacks served to heighten anxiety before police gave the all-clear.

ACROSS THE NATION

Police: Men with guns in Missouri Walmart broke no laws

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Two men with handguns in their waistbands alarmed shoppers when they entered a Kansas City-area Walmart on Sunday, but police say they were just buying ammunition for target practice. Kansas City, Missouri, Police Sgt. Jake Becchina says the men were cooperative and were released because they hadn't violated Missouri law. Shopper Clennon Jones said he saw officers speed into the parking lot and one jumped out with shotgun in hand. Jones says shoppers streamed out of the store and warned others not to enter. Missouri does not require a permit to openly carry a firearm for those 19 years or older. The Walmart store the men entered does not prohibit guns in the store. Walmart officials didn't immediately respond to a message. Earlier this month, 22 people were killed during a mass shooting at another Walmart in El Paso, Texas.

Small plane crashes into house near Poughkeepsie, killing 2

UNION VALE, N.Y. (AP)—A plane crashed into a New York home Saturday, killing one resident and one person on the aircraft and causing a massive fire, state police said. The National Transportation Safety Board is to determine why the Cessna 303 plunged at about 4:30 p.m. in the rural town of Union Vale, 15 miles (24 kilometers) southeast of Poughkeepsie. State police spokesman Steven Nevel said three men were on the plane; one died and two were injured. Of three people in the home, one died, another was seriously hurt and the third is missing. Two golden retriever puppies and a grown Newfoundland dog escaped the flames that engulfed the house on Union Vale's South Smith Street. The names of the victims were not being released until family members were notified, the state police spokesman said. The Federal Aviation Administration said the Cessna left Sky Acres Airport in LaGrangeville, a mile from the crash, and was headed to Republic Airport on East Farmingdale, Long Island.

Indiana lawmaker under fire for posting noose picture

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—An Indiana lawmaker who posted nooses under a Facebook story about a black man pleading guilty to rape is drawing criticism for using racist imagery. Republican state Rep. Jim Lucas, from Seymour, posted a picture of a gallows with two nooses under a WISH-TV story about Marquise Dozier's case. Lucas says he wanted to punish the man and believes in capital punishment. Dozier faces up to 72 years in prison. Lucas says he's previously posted the image under stories involving white offenders. Lucas says he isn't racist and doesn't believe the photo is. The chair of the Indiana Black Legislative Caucus blasted the photo. Democratic state Rep. Robin Shackleford tells The Indianapolis Star noose imagery is well-known to be connected to the lynchings of African Americans and the "normalization of racism" must end.

Asia

Police keep low profile at huge, peaceful HK protest

HONG KONG (AP)—Hong Kong streets were turned into rivers of umbrellas on Sunday as hundreds of thousands of people marched through heavy rain down a major road in the Chinese territory, where massive pro-democracy demonstrations have become a regular weekend activity. Organizers said at least 1.7 million participated, though the police estimate was far lower.

The assembly was peaceful, with no reports of violence, making for a rare calm weekend in a protest movement that has been marked by violent clashes with police. Law enforcement officers kept a low profile, with no riot police seen from the procession's main routes. When stragglers convened outside a government complex in the late evening, other protesters urged them to go home.

■■■

BEIJING (AP)—China is lashing out at Taiwan over its offer of political asylum to participants in Hong Kong pro-democracy movement.

Spokesman for the Cabinet's Taiwan Affairs Office Ma Xiaoguang said Monday the offer would "cover up the crimes of a small group of violent militants" and encourage their "audacity in harming Hong Kong and turn Taiwan into a 'heaven for ducking the law."

The government of the self-ruled island China considers its own territory strongly supports the protests, and Hong Kong students in Taiwan held events over the weekend expressing their backing. Taiwan's president made the asylum offer last month, though it's not clear if requests have been received.

Ma demanded Taiwan's government "cease undermining the rule of law" in Hong Kong, cease interfering in its affairs and not "condone criminals."

■■■

Demonstrators who were shining laser pointers at a government building were convinced to leave, prompting applause from others in the group.

"We hope to see whether the government gives a response to this peaceful protest," said Michael Leung, a 24-year-old who was ushering his fellow demonstrators away. "If we get a negative response, we cannot control the next (gathering)."

Organizer Bonnie Leung of the Civil Human Rights Front said earlier in the day that she hoped there would be no "chaotic situations."

"We hope we can show the world that Hong Kong people can be totally peaceful," she said.

The Civil Human Rights Front had organized three previous massive marches in Hong Kong since June. The movement, however, has been increasingly marked by clashes with police as demonstrators vent their frustrations over what they perceive to be the government's blatant refusal to respond to their demands.

"Peace is the No. 1 priority today," said Kiki Ma, a 28-year-old accountant who participated in the march. "We want to show that we aren't like the government."

While police granted approval for the rally, they didn't approve an accompanying march. Demonstrators nevertheless fanned out and filled the streets, as there was not enough space at the designated assembly area.

Public transit trains did not stop at stations near the assembly because of overcrowding.

Jimmy Shan of the Civil Human Rights Front said the group estimated that at least 1.7 million took part in the rally. He said the figure did not include those who were not able to make it to Victoria Park—where the march began—due to traffic constraints.

Police, whose crowd figures are generally lower than the organizers' estimates, said the turnout at the assigned location and during the designated time period was 128,000. Many protesters, however, did not follow the pre-approved guidelines laid out by the authorities.

In Beijing, You Wenze, a spokesman for China's ceremonial legislature, condemned statements from U.S. lawmakers supportive of Hong Kong's pro-democracy movement.

You called the lawmakers' comments "a gross violation of the spirit of the rule of law, a blatant double standard and a gross interference in China's internal affairs."

Protesters make space for an ambulance to travel during a rally in Hong Kong Sunday, Aug. 18, 2019. AP

Islamic State claims bombing at Kabul wedding that killed 63

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The suicide bomber stood in the middle of the dancing, clapping crowd as hundreds of Afghan children and adults celebrated a wedding in a joyous release from Kabul's strain of war. Then, in a flash, he detonated his explosives-filled vest, killing dozens—and Afghanistan grieved again.

The local Islamic State affiliate claimed responsibility for the deadliest attack in the capital this year, with 63 killed and 182 wounded, while outraged Afghans questioned just how safe they will be under an approaching deal between the United States and the Taliban to end America's longest war.

Stunned families buried the dead, some digging with their bare hands. One wounded survivor, Mohammad Aslim, still wore his bloodied clothes the day after the blast late Saturday. He and his friends had already buried 16 bodies, among them several close relatives, including a 7-year-old boy.

Aslim looked exhausted, and said he was waiting to bury more. Nearby, a man named Amanullah, who lost his 14-year-old son, said in anguish that the explosion had mangled the boy's face so badly he could no longer recognize it.

"I wish I could find the pieces of my son's body and put them as one piece into the grave," he cried.

The emergence of the Islamic State affiliate in recent years might be the greatest threat to Afghan civilians as the U.S. and Taliban seek an agreement to end nearly 18 years of fighting. While the U.S. wants Taliban assurances that Afghanistan will no longer be used as a launch pad for global terror attacks, there appear to be no guarantees of protection for Afghan civilians.

The Taliban, which the U.S. hopes will help curb the IS affiliate's rise, condemned Saturday's attack as "forbidden and unjustifiable."

The blast took place in a western Kabul neighborhood that is home to many in the country's minority Shiite Hazara community. IS, which declared war on Afghanistan's Shiites nearly two years ago and has claimed responsibility for many attacks targeting them in the past, said in a statement that a Pakistani IS fighter seeking martyrdom targeted a large Shiite gathering.

The wedding, at which more than 1,200 people had been invited, was in fact a mixed crowd of Shiites and Sunnis, said the event hall's owner, Hussain Ali.

Restrictions continue in Kashmir despite security ease

NEW DELHI (AP)—Restrictions continued in much of Indian-administered Kashmir on Sunday, despite India's government saying it was gradually restoring phone lines and easing a security lockdown that's been in place for nearly two weeks.

Soldiers manned nearly deserted streets and limited the movement of the few pedestrians who came out of their homes in Srinagar, the region's main city.

The security crackdown and a news blackout were installed following an Aug. 5 decision by India's Hindu nationalist government to downgrade the Muslim-majority region's autonomy. Authorities started easing restrictions on Saturday.

But the Press Trust of India news agency said authorities re-imposed restrictions in parts of Srinagar after violence was reported on Saturday.

About 300 Kashmiris returned to Srinagar on Sunday from a Hajj pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia. Many of them became emotional while reuniting with their family members who met them at the city's airport. Due to the security and communications lockdown, many travelers were unable to contact anybody in the Kashmir region.

"Neither us nor our relatives here knew if we were dead or alive," Muhammad Ali said after returning from the annual Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca.

Public transport buses started operating in some rural areas in Indian-controlled Kashmir on Saturday. Cellphone and internet services resumed in some districts, but news reports said that happened only in the Hindu-dominated Jammu region, which was not threatened by anti-India protests.

The New Delhi government's decision on Kashmir's status has touched off anger in the region and raised tensions with Pakistan. Kashmir is divided between Pakistan and India, but both claim the region in its entirety. The nuclear-armed archrivals have fought two wars over the territory.

Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan demanded that United Nations observers be deployed to the troubled region.

"This threatens 9 million Kashmiris under siege" in Kashmir, "which should have sent alarm bells ringing across the world with UN Observers being sent there," Khan said Sunday on Twitter.

Indian Defense Minister Rajnath Singh dismissed the idea, and said that if talks are held between New Delhi and Islamabad they would only be on Pakistani-administered Kashmir, not on India's part of the region.

An exchange of gun and mortar fire between Indian and Pakistani forces was reported on Saturday across the militarized Line of Control that divides Kashmir between the countries. India said one of its soldiers was killed in the exchange.

Meanwhile, ordinary people in the region continue to feel the impact of the restrictions.

Nazir Ahmad, a retired engineer who lives in Srinagar, said Saturday that residents were still facing difficulties in buying items such as vegetables, milk and medicine. He said his father is sick and needs a constant supply of medicine, which the family is finding difficult to procure.

World

From tusks to tails, nations eye trade in endangered species

GENEVA (AP)—From guitars to traditional medicines and from tusk to tail, mankind's exploitation of the planet's fauna and flora is putting some of them at risk of extinction. Representatives of some 180 nations are meeting in Geneva to agree on protections for vulnerable species, taking up issues including the trade in ivory and the demand for shark fin soup.

The World Wildlife Conference on trade in endangered species, known as CITES, which takes place every three years, aims to make sure that global trade in specimens of wild animals and plants doesn't jeopardize their survival.

The conference opens Saturday and runs through Aug. 28, with key decisions expected to be finalized in the last two days. It had originally been due to take place in Colombo in May and June, but was moved to Geneva after a series of terror attacks in the Sri Lankan capital.

Three months ago, the first comprehensive U.N. report on biodiversity warned that extinction is looming for over 1 million species of plants and animals. There are growing concerns that policymakers aren't acting quickly enough to stop it.

"Business as usual is no longer an option ... The rate of wildlife extinction is accelerating," said CITES Secretary-General Ivonne Higuero in her opening remarks to the conference.

AP

This photo provided by the United States Geological Survey shows a female Pacific walrus resting, Sept. 19, 2013 in Point Lay, Alaska.

"The assessment confirms that nature's dangerous decline is unprecedented," Higuero said.

The meeting also comes just days after the Trump administration announced plans to water down the U.S. Endangered Species Act—a message that could echo among attendees at the CITES conference, even if the U.S. move is more about domestic policy than international trade.

Alain Berset, head of the home affairs department of host Switzerland, noted that sustainable management of threatened species "of course requires taking into account the interests and the needs of the countries where these species live."

CITES bans trade in some products entirely, while permitting international trade in other species provided it doesn't hurt their numbers in the wild.

Demand is diverse for animal and plant products, prized for their medicinal properties or as pets, culinary delicacies, and products for knitwear and handbags—among many other uses.

Customs officials around the world know to be on the lookout for the CITES logo on shipments of plants and animals across borders: It amounts to a highly respected seal of approval that trade in such species is legitimate.

The meeting's agenda contains 56 proposals to change—mostly strengthen—the level of protection among vulnerable or endangered species. But some argue that protections should be downgraded because the relevant populations have stabilized or even increased. Officials say the decisions are to be based on science, not political or other considerations.

"The new wildlife trade rules ... cover an array of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, trees and other plants. Twenty listing proposals are inspired by concern over the growing appetite of the exotic pet trade for charismatic amphibians and reptiles," CITES says.

Africa is facing an internal debate about elephants and ivory.

Zambia—which argues its population of wild African elephants is large and stable, at about 27,000—wants to "downlist" that population to allow for ivory stockpile sales and exports of hunting trophies, hides and leathers. A few other countries in southern Africa want another rule on elephants eased. But 10 other countries—all but one African—want total protection for elephants from any international ivory trade.

Israel is even proposing tougher regulations on the legal trade of mammoth ivory, hoping to undercut illegal traffickers of elephant tusk who sneakily try to pass it off as "ice ivory"—ivory that comes from mammoth tusks.

Migrants jump off rescue boat to try to reach Italian island

ROME (AP)—Several migrants jumped into the sea from a Spanish rescue boat Sunday in a thwarted bid to reach shore in Italy, where the government's hard-line interior minister, Matteo Salvini, has refused to let the 107 passengers disembark.

"We have been warning for days, desperation has its limits," said Open Arms founder Oscar Camps, who released a video showing four migrants wearing orange life vests swimming toward Lampedusa island. Crew members from the humanitarian group's ship swam quickly toward them so they could be brought back aboard.

In the evening, Open Arms urgently requested permission to enter Lampedusa's port so the migrants, aboard for 17 days, could finally get off. It said their psychological and physical conditions are "at risk."

"If the worst happens, Europe and Salvini will be responsible," the charity said in a tweet.

In its formal request made by the boat's captain, Marc Reig Creus, Open Arms also offered an alternative solution: to transfer the 107 onto another, "adequate" ship that could swiftly reach the Spanish port of Algeciras, where Spain has said the migrants could disembark, given the dramatic situation of passengers and crew.

Open Arms told Italian authorities including prosecutors that the situation aboard "has become unmanageable," adding that the migrants are "prey to frequent anxiety and panic attacks."

Salvini has denied docking permission because he contends charity rescue boats essentially facilitate the smuggling of migrants from the traffickers' base in Libya. Salvini's resolve has seen previous similar standoffs end with disembarkation either ultimately taking place in Italy or elsewhere in Europe.

On Sunday, Spain offered one of its ports for the migrants to come ashore, but Open Arms said it would be absurd to undertake a journey, that could take perhaps a week, with the migrants.

For days, Open Arms has been anchored off Lampedusa, a fishing and vacation island between Sicily and northern Africa. The boat initially had 147 migrants aboard when it reached Italian waters. In the last few days, 40 migrants have transferred by Italian coast guard vessels to Lampedusa, including a few who were ailing and 27 believed to be minors.

After the migrants who had jumped from the ship were back aboard, several female migrants wailed or pressed their hands to their head as if in disbelief. A few of the male migrants could be seen gesturing and shouting angrily, while crew members tried to calm tempers.

WORLD BRIEFS

Funeral for lost ice: Iceland bids farewell to glacier

OKJOKULL GLACIER, Iceland (AP)—It was a funeral for ice. With poetry, moments of silence and political speeches about the urgent need to fight climate change, Icelandic officials, activists and others bade goodbye to what once was a glacier. Icelandic geologist Oddur Sigurðsson pronounced the Okjokull glacier extinct about a decade ago. But on Sunday he brought a death certificate to the made-for-media memorial. After about 100 people made a two-hour hike up a volcano, children installed a memorial plaque to the glacier, now called just "Ok," minus the Icelandic word for glacier. The glacier used to stretch six square miles (15 square kilometers), Sigurdsson said. Residents reminisced about drinking pure water thousands of years old from Ok.

Russian opposition figure re-arrested upon jail release

MOSCOW (AP)—A prominent Russian opposition figure has been detained by police immediately after leaving a jail where he had served two sentences connected to protests in Moscow. Ilya Yashin is one of the independent and opposition politicians who were denied a place on the Sept. 8 ballot for Moscow's city council election. Their exclusion has sparked a series of protests, including one that attracted an estimated 60,000 people, the biggest protest crowd in several years. Yashin initially was jailed for 10 days on July 29 for taking part in an unauthorized rally, then detained upon his release and sentenced to another 10 days for calling for another protest. Yashin posted video on Twitter of his Sunday detention, in which a policeman says he faces charges of calling new protests.

Demolition levels UK power plant once named a top eyesore

LONDON (AP)—A British power station once voted one of the country's ugliest sights has been mostly destroyed in a controlled demolition. The cooling towers of the disused coal-fired plant in Didcot, 55 miles (90 kilometers) west of central London, were leveled early Sunday. The complex, including its massive towers and giant chimney—which is due to leveled later—was voted Britain's third-worst eyesore by Country Life Magazine in 2003. The plant has been out of commission since 2013 but plans to demolish it were delayed when four workers were killed on the site in 2016. British media are reporting Sunday that an electrical explosion occurred around the same time as the demolition, knocking out power to homes in the surrounding area. The link to the demolition is not yet clear.

Focus

AP

In this Wednesday, Aug. 14, 2019 photo, a sign designates a boundary of the Hanford Reach National Monument as the world's first large scale nuclear reactor, the B Reactor, is seen in the background where it sits unused on the Hanford Nuclear Reservation along the Columbia River near Richland, Wash. The Energy Department estimates it will cost between $323 billion and $677 billion more to finish the costliest cleanup, at the Hanford Site in Washington state where the government produced plutonium for bombs and missiles.

Wildlife roam where US once made NUCLEAR AND CHEMICAL ARMS

By DAN ELLIOTT
Associated Press

DENVER (AP)—From a tiny Pacific island to a leafy Indiana forest, a handful of sites where the United States manufactured and tested some of the most lethal weapons known to humankind are now peaceful havens for wildlife.

An astonishing array of animals and habitats flourished on six obsolete weapons complexes—mostly for nuclear or chemical arms—because the sites banned the public and other intrusions for decades.

The government converted them into refuges under U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service management, and they now protect black bears and black-footed ferrets, coral reefs and brushy steppes, rare birds and imperiled salmon.

But the cost of the conversions is staggering, and some critics say the sites have not been scrubbed well enough of pollutants to make them safe for humans.

The military, the U.S. Department of Energy and private companies have spent more than $57 billion to clean up the six heavily polluted sites, according to figures gathered by The Associated Press from military and civil agencies.

And the biggest bills have yet to be paid. The Energy Department estimates it will cost between $323 billion and $677 billion more to finish the costliest cleanup, at the Hanford Site in Washington state where the government produced plutonium for bombs and missiles.

CONTAMINATION LEFT BEHIND

Despite the complicated and expensive cleanups, significant contamination has been left behind, some experts say. This legacy, they say, requires restrictions on where visitors can go and obligates the government to monitor the sites for perhaps centuries.

"They would be worse if they were surrounded by a fence and left off-limits for decades and decades," said David Havlick, a professor at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs who studies military-to-wildlife conversions. "That said, it would be better if they were cleaned up more thoroughly."

Researchers have not examined the health risks to wildlife at the cleaned-up refuges as extensively as the potential danger to humans, but few problems have been reported.

At least 30 of the 560-plus refuges managed by the wildlife service have some history with the military or weapons production, the AP found. Most handled conventional weapons, not nuclear or chemical.

Many of the conversions came after the first and second world wars. It was an inexpensive way to expand the national refuge system, especially in urban areas with scarce open space, said Mark Madison, the Fish and Wildlife Service's historian.

When the Cold War ended in the 1980s, more surplus military lands were earmarked for refuges. Some were among the most dangerously polluted sites in the nation but held swaths of hard-to-find habitat.

REBORN AS IDYLLIC PRAIRIE

Most skeptics agree the refuges are worthwhile but warn that the natural beauty might obscure the environmental damage wreaked nearby.

The military closed the sites to keep people safe from the dangerous work that went on there, not to save the environment, said Havlick of the University of Colorado.

"It's not because the Department of Defense has some ecological ethic," said Havlick, author of a book about conversions, "Bombs Away: Militarization, Conservation, and Ecological Restoration."

Converting a heavily polluted weapons complex into a wildlife refuge is cheaper than making it safe for homes, schools and businesses, said Adam Rome, who teaches environmental history at the State University of New York at Buffalo.

"In some cases, they could have conceivably made the site into something that was economically valuable," but that would have cost more, Rome said.

Critics say Rocky Mountain Arsenal in Colorado illustrates the shortcomings of a cleanup designed to be good enough for a refuge but not for human habitation.

Roughly 10 miles (16 kilometers) from downtown Denver, the arsenal was once an environmental nightmare where chemical weapons and commercial pesticides were made. Thousands of ducks died after coming in contact with its wastewater ponds in the 1950s.

After a $2.1 billion cleanup, the site was reborn as Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge, with 24 square miles (61 square kilometers) of idyllic prairie where visitors can take scenic drives or hikes.

But parts of the refuge remain off-limits, including specially designed landfills where the Army disposed of contaminated soil. Eating fish and game from the refuge is forbidden. Treatment plants remove contaminants from groundwater to keep them out of domestic wells.

"So there's a huge downside to converting it into a wildlife refuge, because it allows residual contamination to remain in place," said Jeff Edson, a former Colorado state health official who worked on the cleanup.

"Theoretically, if the Earth still exists in the year 3000, they'll still be monitoring groundwater at the arsenal," he said.

UNEXPLODED ARTILLERY SHELLS

The Army is still struggling with cleaning up Jefferson Proving Ground in southeastern Indiana, part of which became Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge .

Soldiers test-fired millions of artillery rounds at the proving ground, some made of depleted uranium.

Depleted uranium, a by-product of nuclear fuel production, is used for armor-piercing shells. Its radiation isn't strong enough to be dangerous outside the body, but its dust is a serious health risk if inhaled or swallowed, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency says.

Depleted uranium fragments are scattered on the firing range among 1.5 million rounds of unexploded shells, which makes cleanup dangerous and expensive.

The Army told the Nuclear Regulatory Commission it could cost $3.2 billion to clean the area for unrestricted use. Its latest plan calls for waiting 20 years in hopes that better, less expensive technology emerges or the unexploded shells degrade to a safe level.

That rankles Tim Maloney, a senior policy director for the Hoosier Environmental Council.

"I think there's a case to be made that just leaving it in place really maintains an unacceptable risk of contamination spreading from the site," he said. "The Army needs to find a way to clean up the depleted uranium safely."

Some parts of the refuge have been deemed safe—but visitors must watch a safety video and sign a waiver promising not to sue if they're injured by an exploding shell.

A $7-BILLION CLEANUP

Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge , a former nuclear weapons plant northwest of Denver, opened to hikers and cyclists last September, but some activists question whether it's safe.

A $7 billion cleanup concentrated on 2 square miles (5 square kilometers) where workers assembled plutonium triggers for nuclear warheads, and that area is fenced and closed to the public.

The refuge was created on the buffer zone surrounding the production area. State and federal officials say it's safe, but skeptical activists filed a lawsuit saying the federal government didn't test the refuge carefully enough.

Another group asked the courts to release documents from a 27-year-old criminal investigation into the weapons plant, hoping they will show whether the government tracked down and cleaned up all the contamination.

Both those cases are pending in federal court.

SAVING 'SOMETHING POSITIVE'

Hanford—where the cleanup has already cost at least $48 billion and hundreds of billions more are projected—may be the most troubled refuge of all.

Parts of a C-shaped buffer zone around the perimeter are open to visitors as Hanford Reach National Monument . But cleanup costs for an area where contaminated waste is stored are soaring, and Department of Energy investigators say the project has been plagued by fraud and mismanagement.

Washington state officials are worried that the Trump administration wants to reclassify millions of gallons of wastewater at Hanford from high-level radioactive to low-level, which could reduce cleanup standards and cut costs.

The Energy Department told the state it has no current plans to change the classification. State officials say they want long-term and legally binding assurances.

Madison, the Fish and Wildlife Service historian, said the refuges are salvaging something valuable from ecological devastation.

"A lot of the environmental stories are kind of doomy and gloomy, and these are successful ones, something positive," he said.

If agency officials believed the sites were unsafe for the public, he said, they would not work there.

"They're there all the time," Madison said. "They're not going to want to be in a place with chemical pollution or radiation problems."

Overdrive

AUTO REVIEW: 2019 Toyota RAV4 gets rugged, ready for Adventure

By BARRY SPYKER
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

The RAV4 has undergone multiple transformations since its introduction in the 1990s, but it's blazing a whole new trail for 2019 with the Adventure. This one wants to play rough — in the dirt, mud, sand and rocks.

No one is saying it's ready to battle roughnecks from Jeep or Subaru, but it does have torque vectoring all-wheel-drive, terrain-selection options and even hill-descent control. Plus, it can tow 3,500 pounds, enough for small boats, water scooters and the like.

Toyota says the completely redesigned, fifth-generation RAV4 marks a revolution, rather than an evolution, and it's hard to argue at first look. The RAV4 now has a more muscular build with chiseled edges and geometric designs, including a protruding trapezoid grille borrowed from its kin, the Tacoma pickup. It also gains an extra half-inch of ground clearance, up to 8.5 inches.

And it gets a dose of attitude with two-tone exterior color (a worthy $500 option), bold orange stitching inside, black fender cladding, dual exhausts with chrome tips, and 19-inch 5-spoke wheels with black accents.

In the backcountry, the RAV4 Adventure claws through sand and mud with the help of its brake-based torque vectoring, which makes sure wheels with the best traction are getting the most power. The driver can even monitor the power distribution on a cool dynamic display. Rotary-knob settings make throttle and suspension adjustments for mud/sand, rock/dirt and snow.

On the road is where most will be driving and, well, that's where RAV4 comes up a little short. To its credit, Toyota bumped up horsepower by 27, but the 2.5-liter inline-4 cylinder engine still only racks up 203 hp and 184 pound-feet of torque. It'll get to 60 mph in about 8.5 seconds — below average for the segment — and it'll whine like an old mule all the way there.

A turbo would do wonders here. The engine is OK under normal conditions but sounds and feels like it is straining when the throttle is pushed hard during on-ramp acceleration and passing. An 8-speed automatic transmission, which replaces the old 6-speed, probably boosted pick-up but not enough. Shifts are clunky at low speeds but smooth out during acceleration.

Steering offers little feedback and the new suspension, shared with Camry, offers minimal road feel. Body lean is about average for the segment; sport mode, as opposed to Eco or Normal, does little to improve it.

Fuel economy is a plus, however, with real mileage right in line with EPA estimates: 25 mpg city, 33 highway, for a 28 combined.

Front seats are nicely bolstered and trimmed in a faux leather that's pretty believable. They're heated and cooled and available in two color schemes. On the dash, the tester also had an orange wireless phone charger plus orange shelves for stuff — all rubberized so things don't slide off on the trails.

A 7-inch color gauge cluster has a reconfigurable information screen and speedometer wrapped around it. Perched atop the dashboard is an 8-inch infotainment touchscreen, which features Toyota's Entune 3.0 system. It has been improved for this year and offers Apple CarPlay integration but not so Android Auto; maybe next year.

An Adventure Weather options package ($1,185) adds leather-wrapped wheel, heated/ventilated seats and rain-sensing wipers. Other extras include sunroof ($850) and upgraded navigation and JBL sound system ($1,620).

When it comes to stashing stuff for your "adventure," RAV4 has the cargo space for groceries and most weekenders but lags behind popular foes. It has 37.6 cubic feet in the rear and 69.8 cubes with the rear seats folded down. To its credit, there's a traditional plug and 12-volt outlet back there to plug in a fan, portable stove or coffeemaker.

All RAVs get Toyota's Safety Sense 2.0, which includes adaptive cruise, lane-keep steering assist, and auto braking with pedestrian warning. A tech package ($1,265) adds blind-spot monitor and parking sensors with automatic braking, and rear-view mirror/camera set-up.

The RAV4 Adventure, despite some shortcomings, brings a new and rugged personality to the lineup. Not rugged enough, you say? Toyota goes one better this fall: The 2020 RAV4 TRD Off Road promises a retuned suspension with twin-tube shocks, lightweight aluminum wheels and special Falken trail tires.

TNS
The 2019 Toyota RAV4 Adventure.

NUTS & BOLTS

- 2019 Toyota RAV4 Adventure AWD
- MSRP: $33,900
- As tested: $39,634 (Includes Weather package, $1,185; Tech package, $1,265; Entune 3.0 premium, $1,620; power moonroof, $850)
- What's all the excitement about? New RAV4 Adventure trim brings new attitude, rugged look to lineup
- Powertrain: 2.5-liter 4-cylinder engine with 8-speed automatic
- How's the performance? With 8.5-inch ground clearance and torque-vectoring AWD, it can tackle terrain others in the segment can't; On-road performance is OK, with 0-60 mph coming at 8.5 seconds

Under the Hood: Routine service on a Mercedes is expensive, but cheaper than the alternative

Q: With my eyes wide open, about 18 months ago I bought a like-new 2012 Mercedes-Benz E350 convertible with 32,000 miles. Because of the wonders of depreciation, this $68,000 beauty was mine for less than the cost of new econobox.

I knew service and parts would be expensive, but I was not prepared for the frequency of these services. Oil changes are very reasonably required every 10,000 miles or year. However, did you ever hear of brake fluid being replaced in a mild climate every 20,000 miles? Transmission flush and change at 70,000 miles or spark plugs at 60,000 miles? These are what the owner's manual requires.

The car runs beautifully, and the last year and a half and 28,000 miles have been marvelous. Obviously, I want to keep enjoying it, and if that's what it takes to do so, I will. Not at the dealership that gets $210 per hour but at a fine independent shop I've found. I had been most apprehensive about all the electronics and all the electric motors, but the frequent service doesn't seem to be aimed at preventing failure of these systems.

Should a modern auto really require that much service, or is it a mere revenue generator?

—Mike

A: This sounds like quite a love affair! I looked through the maintenance schedule for your E350 up through 150,000 miles, and other than the frequent brake fluid replacement, wiper blade replacement and convertible top inspection/lubrication recommendations, your car is not unusual in other maintenance needs. I've always been a believer in brake fluid renewing, perhaps every three or four years, to prevent corrosion of expensive ABS/traction control components and to insure safe braking. The 20,000 mile interval is strict. However, considering the hydraulic control unit runs close to $3,000, I'd do it! At least there isn't a timing belt to replace!

Today's cars and light trucks require significantly less maintenance than those of the past thanks to electronic fuel injection, distributorless ignition, sealed wheel bearings and grease fittings, better lubricants and so on. Cabin air filters are an example of additional maintenance, but they can often be replaced by the vehicle owner with a little elbow grease. Your combination dust and carbon filter is fairly easily accessed from beneath the passenger side instrument panel once the below-dashboard cover is removed. There are at least a half dozen YouTube videos showing how.

Wow! $210 per hour could hurt very quickly! I'm thinking your larger concern beyond maintenance will be the cost of certain repairs that will be inevitable on an aging vehicle with lots of bells and whistles and a component-assembly parts replacement philosophy. Electronic parts are typically pretty robust. You're correct about the motors and mechanisms — a good reason to keep up with lubrication and attentive observations, especially on the convertible top. Whenever a mechanism runs slowly, groans or squeaks, it's important to get right to the cause before more damage is done.

What's odd is there's no mention of renewing engine coolant. I'd certainly do this, along with hoses, every four to five years to prevent costly corrosion damage to engine parts ($3,000 cylinder heads, among other engine parts, plus oodles of labor!) and heater core (10 hours labor to replace) and to reduce the chances of an over-heat catastrophe. I'd also renew the fuel filter early (rather than at 150,000 miles) to help the fuel pumps (about $1,200 for all three) live a happy life. And a rear differential fluid change at five years might encourage long life from the $4,000 differential assembly!

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
Tribune News Service

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Life & Style

Aretha Franklin's cancer doctors recall her grace, grit

By JEFF KAROUB
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AP
This July 26, 2010 file photo shows performer Aretha Franklin in Philadelphia.

DETROIT (AP)—Regardless of her reputation as a performer, Aretha Franklin's cancer doctors say she was no diva as a patient.

As the anniversary of her death approaches, two of her doctors tell The Associated Press that the Queen of Soul handled the diagnosis and treatment with grace—and the grit to keep performing for years with a rare type of cancer.

"As a person, she was extremely kind, she was respectful, she was funny—she treated people like me and my team members as her friends," said Dr. Manisha Shah of Ohio State University. "There is no phone call that would end without her asking about us. Most of the time she would ask about us first. ... It's because who she was: She was really down-to-earth."

Franklin, who died in Detroit on Aug. 16, 2018, at 76, had pancreatic neuroendocrine cancer, which starts in the pancreas but is far different and much slower developing than the more common, aggressive type of pancreatic cancer known as adenocarcinoma. Franklin's kind is exceedingly rare: Neuroendocrine cancers comprise about 7% of cancers originating in the pancreas, according to the Neuroendocrine Tumor Research Foundation .

Shah said she first saw Franklin after her 2010 diagnosis, surgery and treatment at Detroit's Karmanos Cancer Center.

"I think she had her priorities very clear in her mind. ... She would ask me how long this treatment would go for, what would be her restrictions," Shah said. "As far as I can see, she was able to live that dream, or her plan."

Of course, her illness meant some cancellations, which was to include performing on her 76th birthday in March of last year in Newark and at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival in April. But she gamely carried on as her illness progressed: Performances of note included closing a gala in November 2017 for Elton John's 25th anniversary of his AIDS foundation, and bringing President Barack Obama and many others to tears in 2015 with a triumphant performance of "(You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman" at a Kennedy Center tribute for the song's co-writer, Carole King.

"How can the same person who is going through this cancer journey continue to do what she did all her life? It's amazing how she went through it so gracefully," Shah said. "She wasn't afraid."

Both Shah and Dr. Philip Agop Philip, a professor at Karmanos and Wayne State University, recalled how she wanted to continue her life as normally—and positively—as possible.

"She was full speed—she wasn't even complaining," said Philip, who first saw Franklin in early 2011 and was her doctor of record at the time of her death. "That was different than what I expected. ... She never showed signs that she was close to thinking that she may give up ... until the end, close to the end."

In the public eye, she even embraced the "diva" tag, once saying, "What do YOU think?" when an AP reporter asked Franklin if she thought she was the ultimate diva while discussing a VH1 Divas concert honoring her music. Still, Philip also saw a patient who didn't demand star treatment, saying she never made him or his staff "feel that we need to treat her as a celebrity." Of course, given her fame, some accommodations were made: She came and went through a side door and there were more frequent changes in appointments because of her performing schedule. While there, however, she was keen on doing whatever needed to be done, he said.

"She knew her body, she knew herself," he said. "A lot of patients will ask for treatment that doesn't really make much difference to her body. She didn't do that."

Shah says Franklin's cancer—the same kind Apple cofounder and longtime leader Steve Jobs had—has many treatment options, and her doctors employed both targeted drug therapy and chemotherapy.

Shah said she talked with Franklin about traveling to Europe for a treatment before it was approved last year in the United States. It was then the doctor learned of her patient's famous fear of flying, which anti-anxiety tapes and classes couldn't help.

"She said, 'Oh no, I can't go—I don't fly,'" Shah recalled. "We had several other options for her."

Gyllenhaal attributes conquering his one-act fear to documentary

Gyllenhaal

NEW YORK (AP)—Few performances are as daunting as the one-person play.

That's why Jake Gyllenhaal had to find a way to conquer that fear when he took on the role of Abe in the second half of "Sea Wall/A Life."

"Before I did it, I was terrified," Gyllenhaal said of "A Life," after the play's Broadway opening. Tom Sturridge stars in "Sea Wall," the other half of the pair of one-act monologues.

Gyllenhaal admits that nervousness extended to the rehearsal room. But then he found confidence in an unlikely place. The story of Alex Honnold's 3,000-foot (914-meter) climb of the El Capitan rock formation at Yosemite National Park.

"I was sort of quaking in my boots thinking about it. Then I saw 'Free Solo,' that documentary about the free climber Alex Honnold that won the Academy Award. Amazing, amazing documentary, and I thought to myself, if he can do that without any rope I can do a monologue. And then that was it," Gyllenhaal said.

From then on, it was smooth sailing.

It was a little different for Sturridge. "I feel like weirdly—like before I walk on stage I feel fear. But I feel safest on the stage," Sturridge said.

Both actors say the lack of an onstage partner to play off of can add to the stress; there isn't a safety net if you blow a line. But Sturridge uses the audience.

"Normally when you're on stage you're pretending to be in a room and pretending like you're in Russia in the 1920s and you're pretending the audience don't exist. But with this, I'm having a conversation with real people who are different every night. And if I blow a line, then we just change the conversation," Sturridge said.

"Sea Wall/A Life," a pair of plays written by Nick Payne and Simon Stephens, respectively are tragic comedies that deal with love and loss.

Gyllenhaal says the emotional value shifts with each audience.

"It's very emotional through all of it. But it changes every night. It's different. Sometimes I'm telling the story, I'm just telling it. Sometimes things happen. Sometimes I hear someone in the audience have an emotional response. He was laughing or crying, and it makes me feel something," he said.

"Sea Wall/A Life" plays on Broadway at the Hudson Theater until Sept. 29.

Planned book by Mark Halperin faces widespread criticism

Halperin

NEW YORK (AP)—A reported book deal for Mark Halperin, the "Game Change" co-author and political commentator who has faced multiple allegations of sexual harassment, is being greeted with widespread outrage. Former Fox News host Gretchen Carlson called the deal "a slap in the face to all women."

Politico announced Sunday that Halperin's "How To Beat Trump" was expected in November. The book draws upon observations by dozens of Democratic strategists, including Donna Brazile, James Carville and David Axelrod. It's the first major project for Halperin since reports of harassment emerged in 2017, with former colleagues alleging crude sexual advances. Penguin Random House canceled a planned book by Halperin and John Heilemann about the 2016 presidential election and Halperin also was dropped as a commentator by Showtime and NBC News.

"Game Change," about the 2008 election, was a bestseller co-written by Halperin and Heilemann and later adapted into an acclaimed HBO movie. They also teamed up on a bestseller about the 2012 race, "Double Down."

Carlson, who alleged she was harassed by the late former Fox chairman Roger Ailes, was among many expressing surprise and anger about Sunday's announcement. CNN political commentator Karen Finney called Halperin "a predator" and condemned publisher Regan Arts. Political strategist Rebecca Katz tweeted that "you can beat Trump without supporting the career rehabilitation of Mark Halperin."

Eleanor McManus said she was a 21-year-old job seeker when then-ABC News political reporter Halperin tried to kiss her during a meeting in his office. She's the co-founder of PR firm Trident DMG.

"He leveraged his position as a prominent journalist to prey on women," she said in an email. "He has yet to take responsibility for his actions by apologizing to his victims or demonstrating genuine contrition. Giving him a book once again puts him in a position of authority and that is a slap in the face to all the women that he has victimized."

Halperin's media campaign already seems limited. On Sunday, CNN announced that Halperin would not be appearing on the network to promote his book. An NBC spokesperson told The Associated Press that Halperin would not be appearing on NBC or MSNBC.

Axelrod, meanwhile tweeted that his decision to participate in the book stemmed from his knowing Halperin for 25 years.

Jury convicts man dubbed 'Boy Next Door Killer' of 2 murders

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A jury on Thursday found an aspiring actor who prosecutors called "The Boy Next Door Killer" guilty of fatally stabbing two Los Angeles-area women, one of whom was killed the night she was planning to meet actor Ashton Kutcher for drinks.

The jury also found Michael Gargiulo guilty of the attempted murder of a woman who fought back and sent him fleeing, leading to his arrest in all three cases and a fourth for which he's awaiting trial in Illinois.

Gargiulo, 43, was convicted in the murder of 22-year-old Ashley Ellerin in her Hollywood home in 2001 on a night when she was about to meet Kutcher, who testified at the trial. Her father was in court for the verdict.

Gargiulo also was convicted of the 2005 murder of 32-year old Maria Bruno in her El Monte home, and with the 2008 attempted murder of Michelle Murphy in a stabbing attack in her Santa Monica apartment.

Jurors who deliberated for three days also found Gargiulo guilty of several special-circumstance allegations, including lying in wait and multiple murders, which make him eligible for the death penalty or life in prison with no possibility of parole.

A final phase of the trial is set to start Tuesday, when jurors will determine whether Gargiulo was sane at the time of the killings.

Gargiulo sat in court in a lavender dress shirt and slacks with eight sheriff's deputies standing behind him. He showed no reaction when the verdict was read.

His attorneys declined comment outside court. Prosecutors and victims' family members did not speak to reporters.

A native of the Chicago area who moved to Los Angeles in the late 1990s, Gargiulo had acting aspirations and worked as an air conditioning repairman and Hollywood nightclub bouncer at the time of the attacks.

With little physical evidence tying him to the scenes of two killings, prosecutors urged jurors to look at the cases connectively, citing uncannily similar patterns in home-invasion attacks that were all in places near his residence at the time. While some media outlets referred to him as "The Hollywood Ripper," prosecutors dubbed him the "Boy Next Door Killer."

Allowed to cite evidence from the Illinois case, they said all four attacks were the work of a skilled serial killer who studied the lives, homes and habits of victims that he stabbed quickly, powerfully and repeatedly with a knife that he knew how to use, and studied ways to cover his tracks.

"Those similarities point to one man, one killer: Michael Gargiulo," Deputy District Attorney Garrett Dameron said during closing arguments.

The defense relied heavily on the lack of forensic or eyewitness evidence putting Gargiulo at the scenes of the killings. A shoe-covering bootie with Bruno's blood and Gargiulo's DNA was found near her apartment in a complex where they both lived.

"It's incomprehensible to me that you can make a case against someone when you can't even prove where they were," defense attorney Dale Rubin said during closing arguments.

Jordan halts film that refers to historical Jewish presence

In this Feb. 13, 2017 file photo, tourists point at the Treasury, in the kingdom's Petra archaeological park, southern Jordan. AP

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP)—A fictional caper about an antiquities heist set in an ancient Jordanian city has stirred widespread outrage over the film's portrayal of historical Jewish ties to Jordan, shining a light on the tenuous peace with neighboring Israel and prompting the government to suspend the movie's production.

Based on a book of the same name, the movie, "Jaber," follows a Jordanian boy who uncovers a stone in the rose-colored, rock-hewn city of Petra with a Hebrew inscription on it. He sets off to sell it to the highest bidder, but interested parties in Israel catch wind of the find, dispatching a Russian organized crime group to pursue the boy and retrieve the stone at any cost.

Opponents of the film say merely discussing a historical Jewish presence in Jordan could open the door to Israeli territorial claims to the Hashemite Kingdom. They point to Israel's claims over the West Bank and east Jerusalem—war-won territories sought by the Palestinians—which Israel says are rooted in millennia-old Jewish ties, backed up by archaeological finds.

While such a scenario is unlikely in Jordan, the concerns reflect the hostility Jordanians feel toward Israel despite the two countries' 1994 peace agreement.

"Any talk about Jewish history in Jordan could lead to political claims," said Ali Elayan, who was slated to play a Jordanian police officer in the movie but withdrew over his opposition to the plot. "That is what happened in Palestine."

Israel captured the West Bank and east Jerusalem, then under Jordanian control, in the 1967 Mideast war. Spurred on by religious Jews hoping to restore a Jewish presence in the biblical land of Israel, repeated Israeli governments have erected settlements in the territories that are widely seen as obstacles to the establishment of a viable Palestinian state. The Palestinians seek the West Bank for their future state, along with east Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip.

Ending a drought for R-rated comedies, 'Good Boys' is No. 1

NEW YORK (AP)—The R-rated comedy, left for dead by some Hollywood studios, again reached No.1 at the box office over the weekend thanks to the raunchy coming-of-age tale "Good Boys," about a trio of 12-year-olds on a crude misadventure.

"Good Boys" surpassed expectations to debut with $21 million, according to studio estimates Sunday, dethroning the "Fast & Furious" spinoff "Hobbs & Shaw," which slid to second with $14.1 million in its third weekend. Not since Melissa McCarthy's "The Boss" came in No. 1 all the way back in April 2016 has an R-rated comedy topped the North American box office.

"This is like a unicorn sighting," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for data firm Comscore.

In recent years, R-rated horror has largely taken the place of R-rated comedy at the box office, as Hollywood has increasingly ceded the genre to TV and streaming services. But Universal Pictures, which released "Good Boys," has kept the flame. The studio was behind "The Boss" as well as the intervening years' highest grossing domestic comedies: 2017′s "Girls Trip" and 2018′s "Night School."

"Good Boys" broke out of a crowded late-summer field of new releases. The weekend's other new widely released films—the animated sequel "The Angry Birds Movie 2," the shark attack sequel "47 Meters Down: Uncaged," the Bruce Springsteen-inspired drama "Blinded by the Light" and Richard Linklater's Cate Blanchett-led "Where'd You Go Bernadette"—all fizzled.

"Good Boys" rode a buzzy premiere at South By Southwest, good reviews (80% fresh on Rotten Tomatoes) and the imprimatur of producers Seth Rogen and Evan Goldberg ("Good Boys" is much like a tween version of "Superbad") to notch the best opening for an original comedy this year. Second place is Universal's body-switch comedy "Little."

Directed by Gene Stupnitsky (who co-wrote the script with Lee Eisenberg), "Good Boys" stars Jacob Tremblay, Keith L. Williams and Brady Noon as sixth graders trying to make it to their first kissing party. The movie's much-watched red-band trailer traded on its ironies. As Rogen says, Tremblay, Williams and Noon are all too young to see their own movie alone.

1. **"Good Boys,"** *$21 million* ($2.1 million international).
2. **"Hobbs & Shaw,"** *$14.1 million* ($45.7 million international).
3. **"The Lion King,"** *$11.9 million* ($33.8 million international).
4. **"The Angry Birds Movie 2,"** *$10.5 million* ($19.4 million international).
5. **"Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark,"** *$10.1 million* ($4.4 million international).
6. **"47 Meters Down: Uncaged,"** *$9 million.*
7. **"Dora and the Lost City of Gold,"** *$8.5 million* ($6.6 million international).
8. **"Once Upon a Time in Hollywood,"** *$7.6 million* ($53.7 million international).
9. **"Blinded by the Light,"** *$4.5 million.*
10. **"Art of Racing in the Rain,"** *$4.4 million.*

SHOWBIZ BRIEFS

UK judge sentences Schwimmer lookalike to 9 months in jail

LONDON (AP) — A British judge has sentenced a lookalike of "Friends" actor David Schwimmer to nine months in prison for theft and fraud. Judge Sara Dodd sentenced Abdulah Husseni on Thursday for using a stolen bank card to make or attempt to make fraudulent purchases at four shops in Blackpool, northwest England, last year. He was convicted of one count of theft and four counts of fraud by false representation. Husseni's image became famous after police published surveillance-camera footage of a man carrying a carton of cans from a restaurant in Blackpool. Social media users noted a strong similarity to Schwimmer's character Ross Geller in the TV show. The actor then posted a video on Twitter showing him scuttling furtively through a U.S. convenience store clutching a carton of beer. Schwimmer wrote: "Officers, I swear it wasn't me."

Police arrest man in attack on comedian Andy Dick

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Authorities have made an arrest in an attack on comedian Andy Dick outside a New Orleans nightclub where he had performed. In a news release, New Orleans police spokesman Aaron Looney says 46-year-old David Hale was arrested early Wednesday and booked into jail on suspicion of second-degree battery and simple battery. Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office spokesman Philip Stelly said he did not know whether Hale had an attorney. Dick told The Times-Picayune/The New Orleans Advocate someone punched him early Saturday, knocking him out for 15 minutes. Dick was outside the French Quarter club when he was punched. Robert Couvillion, who promoted the show, says the performer didn't have any reason to expect to be attacked. The comedian and musician is known for his role in the 1990s NBC-TV show "NewsRadio."

Obama's high school basketball jersey sells for $120,000

DALLAS (AP)—A basketball jersey believed to have been worn by former President Barack Obama while he was at a Honolulu prep school has sold at auction for $120,000.

Heritage Auctions said the jersey sold Saturday night in Dallas to a collector of American and sports artifacts who didn't wish to be identified.

The jersey was offered by Peter Noble, who was three years behind Obama at Punahou School. Noble, now 55 and living in Seattle, said the jersey was destined for the trash when he picked it up. Years later he saw an old photo of Obama wearing a No. 23 jersey while at school.

The auction house says details on the shirt match the one Obama is photographed wearing.

Noble says a portion of the sale will go to the school.

Dutch Princess Christina, sister of former queen, dies at 72

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)—Dutch Princess Christina, the youngest sister of former Queen Beatrix, died Friday after a battle with bone cancer. She was 72.

Christina, the youngest of four daughters of the late Queen Juliana and her German-born husband Prince Bernhard, died at the Noordeinde Palace in The Hague, according to the Dutch Royal House.

In a tweet, King Willem-Alexander, Queen Maxima and Beatrix described Christina as "a striking personality with a warm heart."

Publicity-shy Christina and her former husband Jorge Guillermo, the son of a Cuban doctor, had three children, Bernardo, Nicolás and Juliana. The couple divorced in 1996.

Christina

The marriage removed Christina from the line of succession to the Dutch throne and allowed her to live outside the royal court. During her life, she lived in countries including Italy, the United States and Canada.

Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte said by relinquishing her right to the throne, Christina "created room for herself to lead her own life. A life dominated by family, her great love of music and development of young singing talent."

Christina was born partially blind and her mother's decision to seek help from a faith healer, Greet Hofmans, led to a royal crisis in the 1950s.

Hofmans reportedly exerted increasing influence over Queen Juliana to the annoyance of Prince Bernhard, leading to rumors of a possible divorce. The royal couple, however, remained married.

Tightrope walker's dance over river launches Prague festival

PRAGUE (AP)—A French tightrope walker has kicked off a contemporary circus festival in Prague with a high-wire trip across the Vltava River.

Thousands of people on the river's banks and a nearby bridge in the Czech capital applauded as Tatiana-Mosio Bongoga inched along a rope strung 35 meters (115 feet) above the water

Bongoga didn't have a safety cord connecting her to the tightrope during her 350-meter (1,148-feet) walk but performed tricks such as doing the splits and dancing on the rope.

The tightrope was stretched between a crane located near the InterContinental Hotel in downtown Prague and Letna Park, where the International Festival of Circus and Theatre is taking place for a 16th year.

The festival opened Wednesday and ends Sept. 1.

AP

French tightrope walker Tatiana-Mosio Bongoga balances over the Vltava river during her performance to open an international new circus festival in Prague, Czech Republic, Wednesday, Aug. 14, 2019. The Prague Castle is in the background.

Aidy Bryant tries her hand at fashion with plus-size line

NEW YORK (AP)—World, meet Pauline.

Aidy Bryant has rolled out the start of a new plus-size fashion line named for her great aunt, but the "Saturday Night Live" star is starting small with just one dress in three blue styles, a solid, a stripe and a gingham.

She dubbed the shirtdress the Lovington and it sells for $175 on paulineny.com.

Byrant

In a video on the site, Bryant explains, "I've been a fat lady my whole damn life" and was always looking for clothes. She wanted easy, simple, cool and comfortable but couldn't find what she liked. Then stardom hit and she enjoyed access to stylists and tailors for custom looks.

Bryant says that was life changing, so she is partnering with her stylist, Remy Pearce, to offer her vibe to others.

Duane Allman's old guitar 'Layla' sells for $1.25 million

MACON, Ga. (AP)—Fans of Duane Allman in Macon, Georgia, say they didn't expect the late musician's old guitar to sell for $1.25 million at a recent auction.

The gold-topped guitar is the one Allman played in the hit song "Layla," where he performed with Eric Clapton, The Telegraph reported .

Until recently, the guitar affectionately called "Layla" had been on display at the Allman Brothers Band museum at The Big House in Macon.

"I don't think anybody expected that," Museum Director Richard Brent said of the amount. "The history of it is what sold it."

Brent said the man who bought the guitar at the auction is an out-of-town collector who wishes to remain anonymous.

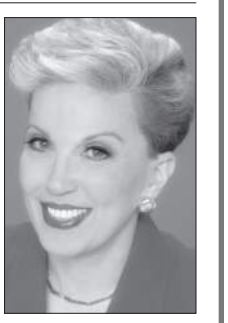
The buyer has agreed to share the instrument with the museum during certain times. That means it will be coming back to the museum in late November, Brent said.

"It will be coming back to The Big House in late November," Brent said. "We couldn't ask for more than that."

Duane Allman played the guitar on the first two Allman Brothers records, and in "Loan Me a Dime" with Boz Scaggs, Brent said. The recording "Layla" with Derek and the Dominoes is among the last times Allman played that guitar.

Wife is edged out of man's affection by her grandson

DEAR ABBY
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR ABBY: My husband, "Doug," and I have had a long and happy marriage. We've raised two children, both of whom are doing well in life. I have much to be thankful for, but I keep having to remind myself of that because I'm having trouble adjusting to my changing relationship with my husband.

We have a grandson. The boy has become the focus of my husband's world. Because of that, Doug no longer wants to do things with me. He says he has too much to do or he is too tired to go out, so I go to social events by myself. In fact, I do everything by myself. If our grandson calls, though, Doug has all the energy in the world.

I try to interact with the two of them, but when I do, I feel like a third wheel. Doug no longer compliments me and is rarely interested in being intimate. I have worked hard to take good care of myself, and I try to look nice for him every day. He doesn't notice.

I'm actually starting to resent my grandson—something I never thought would happen. Do I just carry on and hope things get better? If I should talk to Doug now, how do I do it without sounding petty and immature?

MARRIED, BUT LONELY

DEAR M.B.L.: Something has gone wrong with your marriage. It appears your husband is using your grandson as a way to buffer himself from you. "Too tired" and "too busy" are excuses, not reasons. If discussing this with him doesn't change things, then it's time to talk to a marriage and family therapist—or a clergyperson, if you have one—about what has been going on.

DEAR ABBY: When my husband and I were first married, he was in the Army, stationed in North Carolina. While we were there, his good friend and Army buddy "Mac" became a close friend of mine. There was an instant connection.

I haven't seen Mac since he got out. It has been nine years, but we remain in touch—texting, talking on the phone, playing video games together.

Abby, I believe I may be in love with him. It's not something that happened overnight. This is something I have just come to realize. Do I remain friends and keep this secret or tell him I believe I love him? I am not sure how to handle this.

BLURRED LINES IN TEXAS

DEAR BLURRED LINES: What do you think you have to gain by telling Mac you think you're in love with him? If he says the feelings are mutual, do you plan on leaving your husband? For the sake of your marriage, stop texting, talking and gaming with this man and concentrate on your husband. If you keep playing with fire, your marriage may wind up in ashes.

DEAR ABBY: My daughter's third-generation, American-born fiance wants to wear a kilt to their wedding. (His late maternal grandmother was born in Scotland.) His parental ancestry claims French and Romanian roots. My daughter would prefer he wear a formal suit or tuxedo to their evening wedding ceremony and reception, which is in an upscale hotel for 100 guests. What to do?

TO KILT OR NOT TO KILT

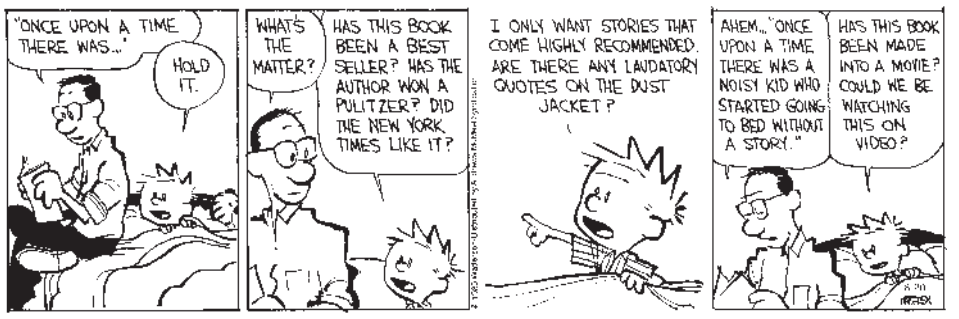
DEAR KILT: I'm glad you asked. Your daughter should lighten up, "allow" her fiance to wear whatever he wants to their wedding and respect his reasons for wanting to do so. Look at it this way: It will make for a memorable wedding.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

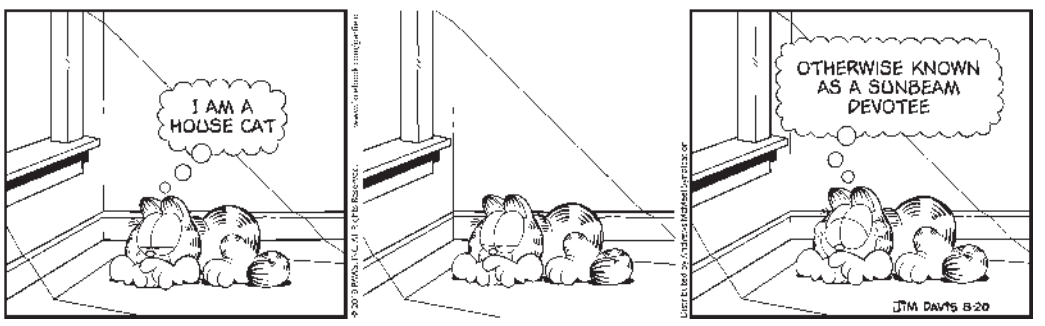
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


"ONCE UPON A TIME THERE WAS..."
HOLD IT.
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
HAS THIS BOOK BEEN A BEST SELLER? HAS THE AUTHOR WON A PULITZER? DID THE NEW YORK TIMES LIKE IT?
I ONLY WANT STORIES THAT COME HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. ARE THERE ANY LAUDATORY QUOTES ON THE DUST JACKET?
AHEM... "ONCE UPON A TIME THERE WAS A NOISY KID WHO STARTED GOING TO BED WITHOUT A STORY."
HAS THIS BOOK BEEN MADE INTO A MOVIE? COULD WE BE WATCHING THIS ON VIDEO?

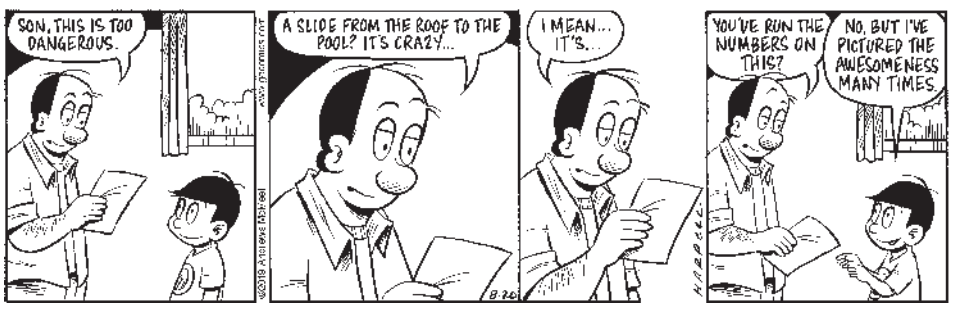
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



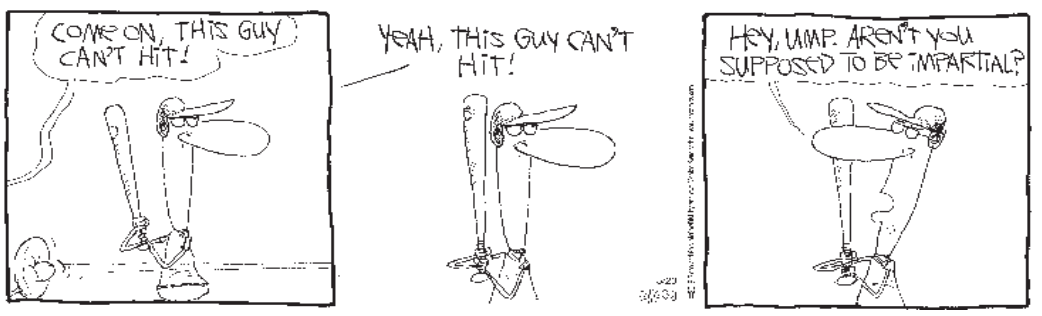
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


SON, THIS IS TOO DANGEROUS.
A SLIDE FROM THE ROOF TO THE POOL? IT'S CRAZY...
I MEAN... IT'S...
YOU'VE RUN THE NUMBERS ON THIS?
NO, BUT I'VE PICTURED THE AWESOMENESS MANY TIMES.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Group of actors
5 Gravy vessel
9 "The Bells" author
12 Buckeye State
13 Capitol of Latvia
14 Aachen article
15 Hand-held data organizer
17 Hill dweller
18 Mayor's domain
19 Clock sounds
21 Mamas' mates
24 Georgia or Cal
25 Coup d'—
26 Taints
30 "Yuck!"
31 Director Forman
32 Rage
33 Did again
35 Crystal gazer
36 Croupier's tool
37 Confused
38 France's longest river
40 Lake of Lombardy
42 Coffee vessel
43 Overly flattering newspaper article
48 Court divider
49 Starting
50 Autos
51 Gore and Franken
52 Colonial seamstress
53 "Go no further!"

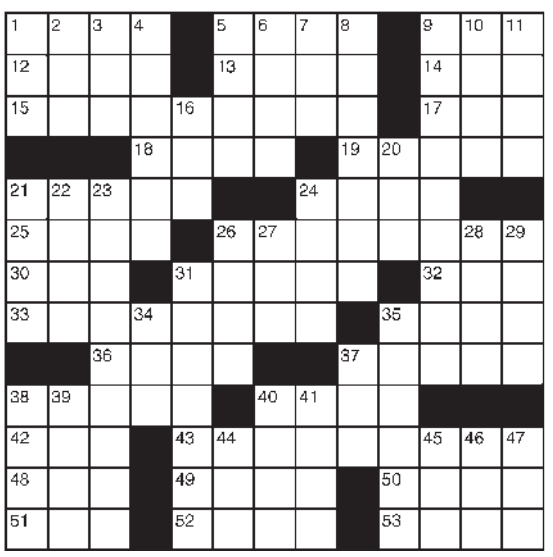
DOWN

1 Officer
2 "Caught ya!"
3 Part of RSVP
4 Male feline
5 Telly watcher
6 Unctuous
7 Past
8 Ragged clothes
9 Fruit-filled pastries
10 Sty cry
11 Tolkien creatures
16 Math ratios
20 Hosp. section
21 Equal
22 Suit to —
23 Tracks left by pets
24 Walked (on)
26 Refer to
27 Flamenco cheer
28 Sloth's home
29 Antitoxins
31 Match the card, in golf
34 Hearing thing
35 Unemotional types
37 Pump up the volume
38 Moth variety
39 Hurler Hershiser
40 Fiscal execs
41 Does in, mob-style
44 GI entertainers
45 "Dig in!"
46 — -Magnon
47 Mentalist's gift

Solution time: 22 mins.

A	G	R	A	■	T	E	D	■	S	W	A	M
S	H	A	N	G	H	A	I	■	T	A	P	E
H	I	P	S	T	E	R	S	■	E	L	S	A
■	■	■	W	O	N	■	C	A	R	T	E	D
R	I	T	E	S	■	F	I	L	E	■	■	■
I	T	O	R	■	H	I	P	B	O	O	T	■
V	C	R	■	T	C	O	_	S	■	P	I	E
■	H	I	P	B	C	N	E	■	C	E	N	T
■	■	■	A	S	K	A	■	L	E	D	G	E
S	T	R	I	P	S	■	E	E	L	■	■	■
I	R	A	N	■	H	I	P	F	L	A	S	K
D	A	F	T	■	C	N	E	¯	C	O	N	E
E	M	T	S	■	T	A	E	■	S	L	O	G

Yesterday's answer 8-20



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Misha Collins, 45; Amy Adams, 45; Billy Gardell, 50; Al Roker, 65.

Happy Birthday: Say little and do a lot. Use this year to position yourself for future gains. Set yourself up to play on a winning team. Surround yourself with competent people who share your beliefs and goals, and you will find the contentment you are searching for. Building a foundation takes time and effort, so don't scrimp when you should be giving your all. Your numbers are 3, 9, 16, 24, 27, 35, 44.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Breathe in, breathe out. OK, now you are ready to move forward, embrace the future and do your thing to the best of your ability. Don't look back; learn from the past, and know better moving forward. Live in the moment. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Craving change and dealing with change are not the same thing. Be prepared if you want to achieve the best results. Listen to your heart, not what someone else is telling you. Don't rush. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Don't get mad; get moving. Consider the possibilities, and start doing what brings you the most joy. You are responsible for your happiness, so don't count on someone else to cater to your needs. Relationships are a two-way street. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Stop worrying about what everyone else is doing and concentrate on what you are trying to accomplish. If you let your emotions take over, you will miss your mark and end up repeating what you have already done. ✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* A change will intrigue you, and patience will run thin if you feel you can't leap into action, but getting things right the first time will go part and parcel with being successful. Personal improvements will encourage significant opportunities. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Participate in events that will push you in a direction you've wanted to go for some time. Let go of the past, embrace the future and find out what life has to offer. A change will be rejuvenating. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Call the shots before someone takes over and orders you around. Use intelligence and experience to get your way. How you deal with others will determine how much respect and help you get in return. Offer encouragement, not criticism. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Keep moving forward, regardless of what others do. Listen to your heart, and you'll find the path that suits you. It's OK to do things your way. Don't let someone's pestering cause you to skip what you want. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Trust in yourself, not what someone tells you. Concentrate on being your best and stepping up for those you love and care about. Personal improvements can be made that will boost your confidence, and romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* A change may be in order, even if you don't want to embrace something new or unfamiliar. Consider how you can improve your life, home and future, and implement baby steps until you feel comfortable taking a leap of faith. ✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Make today all about you, your relationships with others and where you see yourself headed. Much can be accomplished if you are assertive and do what needs to be done without making a fuss or waiting for someone to help. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* A change of plans or to the way you do things will help you utilize your time and skills more effectively. Spend more time on self-improvement and maneuvering yourself into a position that encourages higher pay and a better lifestyle. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are convincing, engaging and confident. You are outspoken and dominant.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	8		1			2		
			9	7	4			
9				8				3
	4						7	2
	2	3				6	9	
1	7						8	
5				9				4
			3	5	1			
		1			2	8		

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Difficulty Level ★★

8/20

Yesterday's Answer

9	4	2	3	5	1	8	6	7
5	1	6	8	2	7	4	3	9
7	8	3	4	6	9	1	5	2
8	3	5	1	9	6	2	7	4
4	2	1	5	7	3	9	8	6
6	9	7	2	4	8	3	1	5
3	5	9	7	8	4	6	2	1
1	7	4	6	3	2	5	9	8
2	6	8	9	1	5	7	4	3

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

FLEXIBILITY Solution: 13 letters

S	E	E	D	H	I	S	O	M	E	T	R	I	C	Y
T	C	S	N	I	S	E	N	O	B	A	C	K	T	G
R	N	I	A	P	C	V	S	S	E	N	T	I	F	N
E	A	C	T	S	P	L	I	T	S	T	L	O	E	I
T	D	R	S	S	T	A	T	I	C	I	F	N	P	V
C	N	E	C	K	A	C	N	T	B	F	E	I	U	O
H	L	X	S	K	I	N	R	O	O	R	L	O	L	M
D	N	E	T	X	E	A	M	R	G	A	C	R	L	R
Y	E	T	N	L	N	O	C	Y	T	S	I	W	T	O
D	G	T	C	G	T	E	O	E	G	I	T	E	E	F
O	N	S	E	I	T	G	S	M	T	I	S	S	U	E
B	U	I	O	N	A	H	I	O	O	X	A	L	E	R
M	L	N	A	N	D	W	E	S	O	P	L	I	S	E
I	T	T	O	R	S	O	A	T	H	L	E	T	E	S
L	J	O	I	N	T	T	N	E	M	A	G	I	L	T

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Athlete, Back, Body, Bones, Calves, Dance, Elastic, Energy, Exercise, Extend, Feet, Fitness, Force, Form, Gymnastics, Hips, Isometric, Joint, Length, Lift, Ligament, Limb, Loosen, Lunge, Mobility, Motion, Moving, Muscle, Neck, Pilates, Pose, Pull, Range, Relax, Rest, Skin, Splits, Stand, Static, Stretch, Swim, Tendon, Tissue, Torso, Train, Twist, Yoga

Yesterday's Answer: Snowfall

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 38, 40, and 42 through 56, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(02) SALES PERSON - $8.57 to 8.88 per hour plus 1.5 OT
Full time, 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Sell merchandise, such as furniture, motor vehicles and parts, appliances, or apparel to consumers. Greet customers and ascertain what each customer wants or needs. Recommend, select, and help locate or obtain merchandise based on customer needs and desires. Compute sales prices, total purchases, and receive and process cash or credit payment. Prepare merchandise for purchase or rental. Answer questions regarding the store and its merchandise.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Graduate or its equivalence;
- At least 12 months experience
- Must be knowledgeable in operating PC, adding machine, electric typewriter

All interested applicants can submit resume at richel@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –Marianaslabor.net.

APEX BUILDERS, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(04) **Warehouse worker** - $7.93 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time, 40 hours a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Receive, store, and issue materials, equipment, and other items from stockroom, warehouse, or storage yard. Keep records and compile stock reports. Pack and unpack items to be stocked on shelves in stockrooms, warehouses, or storage yards. Store items in an orderly and accessible manner in warehouses, tool rooms, supply rooms, or other areas. Examine and inspect stock items for wear or defects, reporting any damage to supervisors. Receive and count stock items, and record data manually or using a computer. Mark stock items using identification tags, stamps, electric marking tools, or other labeling equipment.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
High School Graduate;
At least 12 months experience;
Must have knowledge in the inventory of construction materials and tools.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

GPPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(15) **Auto Technician** $7.98 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Repair automobiles, trucks, buses, and other vehicles. Master mechanics repair virtually any part on the vehicle or specialize in the transmission system. Test drive vehicles and test components and systems, using equipment such as infrared engine analyzers, compression gauges, and computerized diagnostic devices. Test and adjust repaired systems to meet manufacturers' performance specifications. Repair, reline, replace, and adjust brakes. Review work orders and discuss work with supervisors. Confer with customers to obtain descriptions of vehicle problems and to discuss work to be performed and future repair requirements.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Graduate;
- At least 24 months experience
- Knowledge in using hand and power tools

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

GPPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(30) **CARPENTER/LABOR** $9.76 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Help carpenters by performing duties requiring less skill. Duties include using, supplying or holding materials or tools, and cleaning work area and equipment. Clean work areas, machines, or equipment, to maintain a clean and safe job site. Fasten timbers or lumber with glue, screws, pegs, or nails and install hardware. Perform tie spacing layout and measure, mark, drill or cut. Select tools, equipment, or materials from storage and transport items to work site. Drill holes in timbers or lumber.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Graduate;
- At least 12 months experience
- Knowledge in using hand and power tools.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

GPPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(4) **CIVIL ENGINEERING TECHNICIAN** 14.18 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Apply theory and principles of civil engineering in planning, designing, and overseeing construction and maintenance of structures and facilities under the direction of engineering staff or physical scientists. Calculate dimensions, square footage, profile and component specifications, and material quantities using calculator or computer. Read and review project blueprints and structural specifications to determine dimensions of structure or system and material requirements. Draft detailed dimensional drawings and design layouts for projects and to ensure conformance to specifications. Confer with supervisor to determine project details such as plan preparation, acceptance testing, and evaluation of field conditions. Analyze proposed site factors and design maps, graphs, tracings, and diagrams to illustrate findings.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- Associate Graduate;
- At least 24 months experience
- Knowledge in practical application of Engineering Science and Technology

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

GPPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(02) **Environmental Health and Safety Manager** $10. 65 to 10.65 per hour, plus 1.5 OT, Full time, 40 hours a week, Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Review, evaluate, and analyze work environments and design programs and procedures to control, eliminate, and prevent disease or injury caused by chemical, physical, and biological agents or ergonomic factors. May conduct inspections and enforce adherence to laws and regulations governing the health and safety of individuals. May be employed in the public or private sector. Includes environmental protection officers. Order suspension of activities that pose threats to workers' health or safety. Investigate accidents to identify causes or to determine how such accidents might be prevented in the future. Recommend measures to help protect workers from potentially hazardous work methods, processes, or materials. Inspect or evaluate workplace environments, equipment, or practices to ensure compliance with safety standards and government regulations. Develop or maintain hygiene programs, such as noise surveys, continuous atmosphere monitoring, ventilation surveys, or asbestos management plans.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- Bachelor's Degree;
- At least 24 months experience in safety standards;
- Must possess various safety training certificates.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(04) **Interior Designer** - $8.48 to 9.32 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time, 40 hours a week, Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Plan, design, and furnish interiors of residential, commercial, or industrial buildings. Formulate design which is practical, aesthetic, and conducive to intended purposes, such as raising productivity, selling merchandise, or improving life style. May specialize in a particular field, style, or phase of interior design. Design plans to be safe and to be compliant with the American Disabilities Act (ADA). Coordinate with other professionals, such as contractors, architects, engineers, and lumbers, to ensure job success. Inspect construction work on site to ensure its adherence to the design plans. Use computer-aided drafting (CAD) and related software to produce construction documents. Advise client on interior design factors such as space planning, layout and use of furnishings or equipment, and color coordination.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
Bachelor's Degree;
At least 24 months experience;
Must have knowledge of design techniques, tools, and principles involved in the production of precision technical plans, blueprints, drawings, and models

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

GPPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(12) **Mechanics** $7.98 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul automotive vehicles. Repair automobiles, trucks, buses, and other vehicles. Test drive vehicles and test components and systems, using equipment such as infrared engine analyzers, compression gauges, and computerized diagnostic devices. Test and adjust repaired systems to meet manufacturers' performance specifications. Repair, reline, replace, and adjust brakes. Review work orders and discuss work with supervisors. Confer with customers to obtain descriptions of vehicle problems and to discuss work to be performed and future repair requirements.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Graduate;
- At least 24 months experience
- Knowledge in using hand and power tools and testers.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

GPPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(2) **MATERIAL CONTROL MANAGER** $9.02 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Weigh, measure, and check materials, supplies, and equipment for the purpose of keeping relevant records. Duties are primarily clerical by nature. Manage, collect and keep record of samples of products or materials. Document quantity, quality, type, weight, test result data, and value of materials or products to maintain shipping, receiving, and production records and files. Weigh or measure materials, equipment, or products to maintain relevant records, using volume meters, scales, rules, or calipers. Collect or prepare measurement, weight, or identification labels and attach them to products. Examine products or materials, parts, subassemblies, and packaging for damage, defects, or shortages, using specification sheets, gauges, and standards charts. Signal or instruct other workers to weigh, move, or check products

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Graduate;
- At least 12 months experience
- Knowledge of raw materials, production processes, quality control, costs, and other techniques for maximizing the effective manufacture and distribution of goods.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

GPPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(06) **Mechanics** $7.98 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Diagnose, adjust, repair, or overhaul automotive vehicles. Repair automobiles, trucks, buses, and other vehicles. Test drive vehicles and test components and systems, using equipment such as infrared engine analyzers, compression gauges, and computerized diagnostic devices. Test and adjust repaired systems to meet manufacturers' performance specifications. Repair, reline, replace, and adjust brakes. Review work orders and discuss work with supervisors. Confer with customers to obtain descriptions of vehicle problems and to discuss work to be performed and future repair requirements.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Graduate;
- At least 24 months experience
- Knowledge in using hand and power tools and testers.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(05) SERVICE TECHNICIAN- $10.58 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time 40hrs.a week, Monday to Friday 7:30am to 4:30pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Help plumbers, pipefitters, steamfitters, or pipelayers by performing duties requiring less skill. Duties include using, supplying or holding materials or tools, and cleaning work area and equipment. Measure, cut, thread and assemble new pipe, placing the assembled pipe in hangers or other supports. Cut or drill holes in walls or floors to accommodate the passage of pipes. Perform rough-ins, repair and replace fixtures and water heaters, and locate, repair, or remove leaking or broken pipes. Assist pipe fitters in the layout, assembly, and installation of piping for air, ammonia, gas, and water systems. Cut pipe and lift up to fitters. Fit or assist in fitting valves, couplings, or assemblies to tanks, pumps, or systems, using hand tools. Requisition tools and equipment, select type and size of the pipe, and collect and transport materials and equipment to work site. Mount brackets and hangers on walls and ceilings to hold pipes, and set sleeves or inserts to provide support for pipes. Excavate and grade ditches, and lay and join pipe for water and sewer service. Disassemble and remove the damaged or worn pipe.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Graduate;
- At least 12 months experience
- Knowledge in using hand and power tools.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

GPPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(02) **STEEL WORKERS** $14.53 per hour, plus 1.5 OT
Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Raise, place, and unite iron or steel girders, columns, and other structural members to form completed structures or structural frameworks. May erect metal storage tanks and assemble prefabricated metal buildings. Read specifications or blueprints to determine the locations, quantities, or sizes of materials required. Connect columns, beams, and girders with bolts, following blueprints and instructions from supervisors. Bolt aligned structural steel members in position for permanent riveting, bolting, or welding into place. Fasten structural steel members to hoist cables, using chains, cables, or rope. Hoist steel beams, girders, or columns into place, using cranes or signaling hoisting equipment operators to lift and position structural steel members.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
- High School Graduate;
- At least 12 months experience
- Knowledge in using hand and power tools.

All interested applicants can submit resume at anniep@gppcinc.com or at our office address P.O. Box 504357 CK, Tun Kioshi Kileleman Road, As Perdido or contact us @ (670)234-7900 ext. 803 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Mondays to Fridays. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI, Labor web site –marianaslabor.net.

GPPC, INC. IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

YCO Corporation is looking for the following position:

Hardware Sales Associate
Qualification Requirements: Knowledge of business and management involve customer service, production methods, Knowledge in computer system. e.g data base, word, excel, rock solid, POS and other computer software. Familiar Hardware products. Good in oral comprehension, sales and marketing. 12 months work related experience with High School diploma. Salary: $8.57/hr. This job opportunity is a temporary full time position. Deductions all required by CNMI and Federal Law. From Mon-Sat. 36 hr/week 6 hr/day.

Office Supervisor
Qualification Requirements: Knowledge in Computer systems and Electronics such as peach tree, rock solid, microsoft excel, word, access, power point, data base and computer system. Knowledge of business management involve in strategic planning, human resources, leadership technique, production method. Good in customer and personal service. Ability in oral comprehension & expression and written comprehension. With Employment Certificate as office supervisor. Employment certificate will be applied equally to both U.S. Workers and CW-1 workers. At least 24 months work related experience with Associate Degree. Salary $12.41/hr. This job opportunity is a temporary full time position. Deduction all required by CNMI and Federal Law. From Mon-Fri. 36hr/week/7 hr /day.

Dept Hardware Sale Supervisor
Qualification Requirements: Good in customer service, marketing expertise, good in computer e.g data base, rock solid system, excel, word, and other computer program, Familiar in hardware product, knowledge of business and management principle, leadership, production methods, Service oriented. Physically fit, Can able to drive. Knowledge in inventory system. Salary: $8.55-9.20/hr. This job opportunity is a temporary full time position. Deduction: All required by CNMI and Federal Law. Frm: Mon-Sun 7 hrs a day(flexible time and day). 36 hrs /week.

Electrician
Qualification Requirements: At least 24 months work related experience with Associate Degree. Knowledge in all aspect of electrical .eg. installation, plan, lay out, repair, trouble shooting, inspect electrical or electronics system for defects. Good in computer system, data base, Microsoft excel, word, peach tree system, drafting. Knowledge in sales and marketing of electrical product. Good in customer service, with electrical license and diploma and with driver license. Salary: 9:60 hr. This job opportunity is a temporary full time position. Deduction: All required by CNMI and Federal Law. From: Mon-Sat 6 hrs. / day, 36 hrs. /week.

Applicant may submit application to 2nd flr Yumul bldg. Mnsgr Guerrero Rd Chalan Kiya Saipan MP 96950 or email to ycocorporationlabor@yahoo.com. From Monday to Friday 8:00am to 5:00pm. Tel (670)233-3112/3.

YCO Corporation is looking for the following position:

Maintenance and Repair Workers, General
Knowledge in equipment maintenance, repairing, troubleshooting, equipment selection or determining the kind of tools and equipment needed to do a job. Physically fit, with valid drivers license. Must be at least 24 months work related experience with high school diploma. Salary: $8.11 to 9.00/hr. Monday to Friday, 36hr/week, 7 hrs/day. This position is temporary, full time position. There is 1 job opening intent to fill.

Accounting Associate
Atleast 24 months work related experience with High School Diploma, Proficient in microsoft software programs and accounting software such as quick book and peachtree. Knowledge on US generally accepted accounting principles. Comply with Federal State and company policies procedures and Regulations. Compile statistical, financial, accounting or auditing reports and tables pertaining to such cash receipts, expenditures, accounts payables procedures. Proficient in the English language (verbal, written and reading). Active listening, critical thinking. With Certificate of employment. The required employment certificate will be applied equally to both U.S. workers and CW workers. Salary: $9.87/hr. 36 hrs./week, 7 hrs./day. From Monday to Friday. This position is temporary, full time position. There is 1 job opportunity intent to fill with this position.

Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Driver
Required commercial driver license, physically fit with truck driver certificate. Knowledge in record operational or production data, record service or repair activities. Atleast 12 months work related experience with High School Diploma. Salary: $8.00/hr. /hr.36 hrs./week,6 hrs./day Monday to Saturday This position is temporary, full time position. There is 1 job opportunity intent to fill with this position.

Auto Mechanics/Technician
At least 24 months working related experience with High School diploma. Knowledge in repairing, troubleshooting opertation and control, ability of critical thinking and judgement and decision making. Knowledge in sales and marketing of automotive items. Knowledge of machines and tools, including their design, uses, repair and maintenance. Knowledge in customer and personal service. Must have a updated drivers license, physically fit with auto mechanic certificate equal to both US worker and CW-1 worker. Salary: $8.02 to 8.30/hr, 36hr per week, 7 hrs./day. Monday to Friday. This job opportunity is temporary, full time position. There is one (1) job opening the employer to fill.

Applicant may submit application to 2nd flr Yumul bldg. Mnsgr Guerrero Rd Chalan Kiya Saipan MP 96950 or email to ycocorporationlabor@yahoo.com. From Monday to Friday 8:00am to 5:00pm. Tel (670)233-3112/3.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

CFPJ Corporation
(18) Maintenance
& Repair Workers, General
$8.33/per hr.

Interested applicants,
pls call 235-2375
email: cfpjcorp.2014@yahoo.com

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) Inventory Clerk – Atleast 12 months experience in Inventory Control. Excellent math and analytical skills.

Submit Applications To:
Pam Pacific Enterprises Corp.
Dba Pena House Boutique and Salon
Ground Floor, Sablan Building,
Beach Road, Chalan Kanoa,
Saipan MP 96950
Tel. 235-7270

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JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

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Interested applicants,
pls call 233-3372
email: mabang1521@gmail.com

PACIFIC SUNRISE CORPORATION

1 CHEF COOK
2 COOK
1 SUPERVISOR
3 WAITRESS

All interested us citizens can email their resume at psc237700@gmail.com or call 2337000 for more information located at Coral Avenue Garapan Pacific Sunrise building with P.O. BOX 504972 SAIPAN MP 96950

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPENING DATE: August 20, 2019 CLOSING DATE: September 04, 2019 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

NMHC JVA No.	Positions:	Salary:
2019-004	Special Assistant for Housing and Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) Programs	UNGRADED $40,000.00 to $45,000.00- per annum

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular working hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

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Alonso breaks NL rookie HR record, Mets top Royals

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Pete Alonso wasn't even sure he was going to make the New York Mets' opening day roster, so even he never could have imagined the incredible season he's having.

The burly first baseman hit his 40th home run to break the National League rookie record, capping a late outburst by the New York Mets in their 11-5 victory over the Kansas City Royals on Sunday.

"This season's been unbelievable," Alonso said. "It's been a dream come true so far and I just want to keep building off of it and keep trying to help this team win."

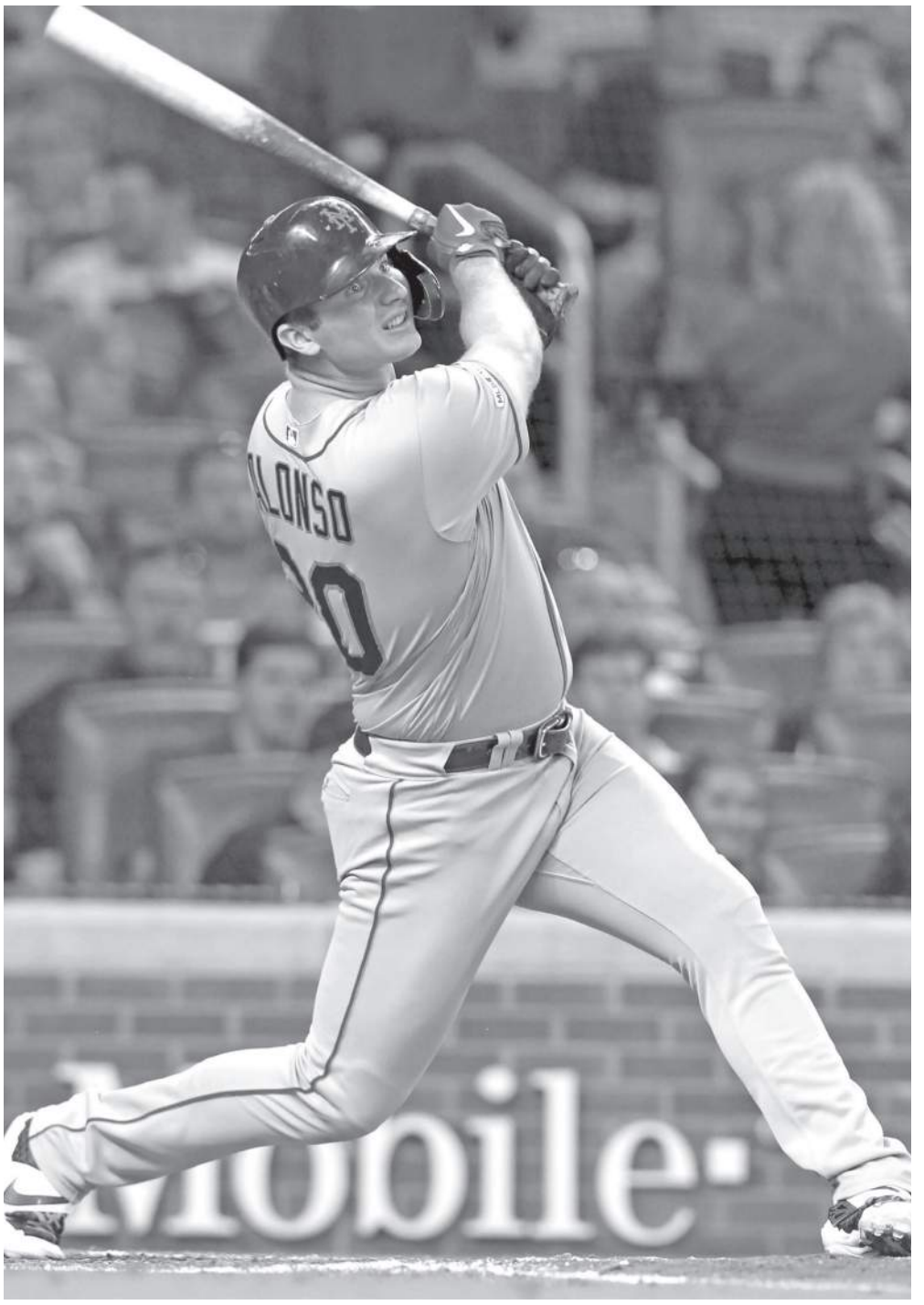
Michael Conforto hit a long homer in the first inning and drove in four runs. Amed Rosario put the Mets ahead 6-4 with a two-run single in the seventh, and Alonso went deep in the ninth.

Alonso quickly fell behind 0-2 in the count, but when Royals pitcher Jacob Barnes threw a high fastball, he didn't miss.

"I was just trying to hit the ball hard like I have been," Alonso said. "Take good, quality swings at good pitches and, thankfully, he gave me a fastball up in the zone, which I like to swing at."

The result was a no-doubt shot over the bullpen in left field that snapped a tie with Cody Bellinger, who hit 39 home runs for the Los Angeles Dodgers in 2017 on the way to winning Rookie of the Year honors.

"I was just trying to hit the ball hard like I have been," Alonso said. "Take good, quality swings at good pitches and, thankfully, he gave me a fastball up in the zone, which I like to swing at."



AP
New York Mets' Pete Alonso follows through on a two-run single during the seventh inning of the team's baseball game against the Kansas City Royals on Sunday, Aug. 18, 2019, in Kansas City, Mo.

Cubs 7, Pirates 1

In Williamsports, José Quintana pitched seven crisp innings, Anthony Rizzo hit a two-run homer and the Chicago Cubs beat the Pittsburgh Pirates in the MLB Little League Classic.

Nicholas Castellanos and Jason Heyward also connected as Chicago earned its second straight win since consecutive heartbreaking losses to the Phillies and Pirates.

The Cubs took two of three in the unusual weekend set and remain in a virtual tie with St. Louis for the top spot in the NL Central.

Astros 4, Athletics 1

In Oakland, Zack Greinke threw seven smooth innings for his 200th win, helping the AL West-leading Astros avoid a four-game sweep.

Alex Bregman had a three-run homer among his four hits to back Greinke (13-4), who won his third straight start since coming over in a July 31 trade with Arizona.

Roberto Osuna got three outs for his 27th save as the Astros stopped a five-game slide.

Marcus Semien homered for Oakland, which had won four in a row. Brett Anderson (10-9) allowed four runs in five innings.

Braves 5, Dodgers 3

In Atlanta, with All-Star outfielder Ronald Acuña Jr. benched for not hustling, Rafael Ortega stepped up with a sixth-inning grand slam to lift the Braves over Los Angeles.

Acuña was pulled before the fifth after failing to run out a drive off the right field wall in the third. The ball bounced off the wall for a long single. The 21-year-old Acuña likely would have had an easy double if he had hustled from home plate.

Braves manager Brian Snitker followed Acuña into the tunnel for an apparent conversation during the fourth inning before Adam Duvall entered the game in left field in the fifth, with Ortega moving from left to center.

Indians 8, Yankees 4

In New York, Mike Clevinger struck out 10 in five shutout innings to win his seventh straight decision, Mike Freeman had three extra-base hits and Cleveland tamed New York for a four-game split between AL pennant contenders.

A day after manager Aaron Boone and two other Yankees were ejected for again ranting against umpires, it was a relatively quiet afternoon.

Freeman hit a three-run homer and a pair of doubles. Oscar Mercado homered and drove in three runs, and Francisco Lindor also connected for the Indians. Clevinger (8-2) limited the Yankees to three hits and walked two.

Red Sox 13, Orioles 7

In Boston, Rafael Devers went 4 for 5 with a homer, two doubles and four RBIs as the Red Sox rallied from an early six-run deficit to complete a three-game sweep of Baltimore.

J.D. Martinez added three hits and two RBIs, and Sam Travis hit a solo homer for the Red Sox, who won their fifth straight as they try to climb out of a deep hole for the second AL wild card. Boston trails Tampa Bay by 6½ games.

In his last eight games, Devers is 20 for 37 with 12 extra-base hits and 14 RBIs. He raised his season RBI total to 101.

Cardinals 5, Reds 4

In Cincinnati, Paul Goldschmidt hit a two-run homer, Tommy Edman added a solo shot among his three hits and St. Louis held off the Reds to split their four-game series.

Jack Flaherty (7-6) had his scoreless streak snapped at 23 innings, but allowed only one run in five frames as the Cardinals stayed in first place in the NL Central, just ahead of the Chicago Cubs.

Carlos Martinez gave up three straight hits and two runs to open the ninth but hung on for his 14th save, striking out Eugenio Suàrez to end it.

Rays 5, Tigers 4

In Tampa, Ji-Man Choi's two-run single in the bottom of the ninth completed a rally from a late three-run deficit, and the Rays kept themselves in the AL's second wild-card spot and avoided a series loss to woeful Detroit.

The Rays trailed 4-1 after seven before coming back with two in the eighth and then the winning hit in the ninth.

Travis d'Arnaud reached to open the ninth against Joe Jimenez (3-7) on shortstop Gordon Beckham's throwing error and went to second when Willy Adames walked.

Nationals 16, Brewers 8

In Washington, Juan Soto hit two of Washington's team record-tying eight homers in a 16-8 rout of Milwaukee.

Matt Adams and Victor Robles hit back-to-back homers in the first to give the Nationals a 4-0 lead, and Anthony Rendon and Soto did the same in the third as the advantage ballooned to 13-0. Washington has gone for back-to-back homers ten times this season.

Erick Fedde (4-2) won his third consecutive start, allowing four runs on ten hits over five innings and striking out two.

Twins 6, Rangers 3

In Arlington, Jorge Polanco cleared the bases with a tie-breaking triple in the eighth inning, helping Minnesota to its first-ever four-game sweep of Texas.

Polanco hit a two-out liner to the gap in right-center field off Emmanuel Clase (0-2). Minnesota maintained a 2½-game lead over Cleveland in the AL Central.

Reliever Sam Dyson (5-1) allowed Shin-Soo Choo's tying homer in the seventh but escaped further damage. Taylor Rogers struck out Rougned Odor looking as the potential tying run in the ninth for his 19th save in 25 chances.

Mariners 7, Blue Jays 0

In Toronto, Yusei Kikuchi pitched his first shutout in the major leagues, throwing a two-hitter that led Seattle over the Blue Jays.

Kikuchi (5-8) struck out eight, walked one and retired the final 14 batters in his first win since beating Baltimore on June 23. It was his 26th start for the Mariners and first complete game.

Tom Murphy hit a two-run homer and the Mariners went deep four times. Kyle Seager hit a leadoff homer against Toronto opener Wilmer Font (2-1).

Padres 3, Phillies 2

In Philadelphia, Austin Hedges had four hits, including a tiebreaking homer in the seventh, and Joey Lucchesi pitched six strong innings to lead San Diego past Philadelphia.

Luis Urías also went deep for the Padres, who had lost seven consecutive rubber games before taking two of three in Philadelphia.

Lucchesi (8-7) gave up two runs on three hits with four strikeouts and two walks.

Hedges belted an 0-2, 78-mph curveball from Jared Hughes (3-5) over the wall in left with one out in the seventh to put San Diego up a run.

Rockies 7, Marlins 6, 10 innings

In Denver, Garrett Hampson hit a bases-loaded single in the bottom of the 10th inning, and Colorado rallied to complete a three-game sweep of Miami.

Nolan Arenado homered twice for Colorado, which has won four straight and swept a series for the first time since June 18-20.

Hampson's game-winner came off Jeff Brigham (2-2) after the Rockies loaded the bases with no outs.

Carlos Estevez (2-2) allowed two runs in the ninth, but the Rockies tied it on Charlie Blackmon's RBI single and a sacrifice fly by Trevor Story.

Diamondbacks 6, Giants 1

In Phoenix, Wilmer Flores and David Peralta homered, Merrill Kelly held San Francisco to one run in 5 2/3 innings, and Arizona avoided a four-game sweep.

Kelly (9-12) struck out five and allowed six hits in his first win at home since June 2. Madison Bumgarner (8-8) took the loss for the Giants after giving up four runs on six hits in six innings.

The Diamondbacks ended a four-game losing streak, spoiling Bruce Bochy's final game at Chase Field as Giants manager.

Angels 9, White Sox 2

In Anaheim, Shohei Ohtani, Kole Calhoun, Matt Thaiss and Anthony Bemboom all homered to lead Los Angeles over Chicago.

Ohtani hit his first home run since July 27 and just his second since the All-Star break. He has a nine-game hitting streak, the longest of his young career.

Calhoun added his career-high 27th homer, a solo shot in the fourth inning. Thaiss hit a three-run homer in the second inning off White Sox starter Dylan Cease (5-6).

Angels rookie Griffin Canning (5-6) pitched seven innings for just the second time. Eloy Jiménez homered and tripled for the White Sox.

Thomas wins, gets inside track to $15M prize

AP
Justin Thomas holds holds the J.K. Wadley trophy after he won the final round at the BMW Championship golf tournament at Medinah Country Club, Sunday, Aug. 18, 2019, in Medinah, Ill.

MEDINAH, Ill. —Justin Thomas remained patient and held his nerve to win the BMW Championship on Sunday at saturated Medinah Country Club, his 10th PGA Tour title and first since last August.

And he has a jump on No. 11 as the victory affords him a two-shot lead at the start of next week's season-ending Tour Championship at East Lake in Atlanta, where a revamped scoring structure features a staggered leaderboard and the winner will bag $15 million.

Thomas, who started the final round with a six-shot lead but saw his advantage shrink to two, closed with a 4-under-par 68 to finish at 25 under and three shots clear of Patrick Cantlay.

Thomas tied the course record with a 65 in the first round and set the course record with a 61 in the third round. Birdies at 11, 13 and 15 were key to holding off his closest pursuers Sunday, and Thomas finished with a birdie on the 18th.

Cantlay closed with a 65, while Hideki Matsuyama finished five back at 20 under after his second 63 of the week.

"To shoot 4 under how I played I think is very impressive," said Thomas, who began with a bogey and had to hit a shot left-handed from under a tree on the 10th that led to another bogey. "I played awful for 10 holes. I very rarely hit shots that were exactly what I wanted and so that's tough when you're trying to win a golf tournament.

But he stayed patient—even when Cantlay pulled within two shots after three consecutive birdies starting on the seventh and Matsuyama pulled within two after six birdies in seven holes.

"I was really nervous going into today, had been awhile since I won," said Thomas, who missed three tournaments this year because of a wrist injury. "I remember that it's really hard to win a golf tournament and I'm glad that I was able to do so."

And it was more rewarding to have done so the way he did, rather than if he had won by 10 shots.

"It's always easy when things are going well. When your back is up against the wall or when you get pressured or put a little heat on you, I think how you respond is sometimes a little bit better or shows a little bit more," Thomas said. "I just kept telling myself I was beating everybody by six through three rounds with a very mediocre Friday. I felt I was playing better than everybody else and I felt that I was good enough I was going to be just fine."

And now, for the first time in his life, Thomas, the FedEx Cup winner in 2017, will start with a two-shot lead before a golf ball is hit in competition. In a first, the PGA Tour created this staggered scoring measure to simplify matters and do away with confusion at the season finale.

"I can certainly say 1,000 percent I never slept on a Wednesday lead, but I'm definitely excited for that and I'm just going to try to win the golf tournament as if everybody starts at zero," Thomas said.

As the FedEx Cup points leader, Thomas will try to join Tiger Woods as the only players to win the FedEx Cup twice. He will start the Tour Championship at 10 under par. He'll be two clear of Cantlay, who is second in the standings, and three clear of world No. 1 Brooks Koepka, who's ho-hum week dropped him to third in the standings.

"I don't know if it's going to be weird. It's going to be different, I know that, but I don't know what it will feel like," Thomas said of having the lead. "I just know that I'm in a lot better position than I was at the start of the week. I just have to be grateful and thankful for that."

Four back will be Patrick Reed and five back will be former FedEx Cup champion Rory McIlroy.

Those sixth through 10th—Jon Rahm, Matt Kuchar, Xander Schauffele, Webb Simpson and Abraham Ancer—start at 4 under and six shots back. Those 11th through 15th—Gary Woodland, Tony Finau, Adam Scott, Dustin Johnson and Matsuyama—will be at 3 under.

The 16th through 20th in the standings—Paul Casey, Justin Rose, Brandt Snedeker, Rickie Fowler and Kevin Kisner—start at 2 under.

Those 21st through 25th—Marc Leishman, Tommy Fleetwood, Corey Conners, Sungjai Im and Chez Reavie—will be at 1 under.

At even par and 10 shots back will be the last five among the top 30 – Bryson DeChambeau, Louis Oosthuizen, Charles Howell III, Lucas Glover and Jason Kokrak.

Not that Kokrak minds. He tied for 19th and claimed the final spot by 11 points over Kevin Tway.

Kokrak, Matsuyama and Glover were the only players to start the BMW Championship outside the Top 30 and make it to East Lake. Players who started the tournament inside the Top 30 but fell out were Champion Golfer of the Year Shane Lowry, Harold Varner III and Andrew Putnam.

Kokrak has never won in 209 starts on the PGA Tour, but he'll be heading to the Masters for the first time next year. And he has playing spots in the other three majors by getting to the Tour Championship.

"To not win and make the top 30 is a pretty solid year," Kokrak said. "I've never played the Masters. I'm in all the big events. I can make my own schedule a little bit easier, go through the year a little bit different than I normally do."

Woods fails to qualify for Tour Championship

MEDINAH, Ill. —It wasn't supposed to end this way.

Not after slipping the green jacket over his red shirt on Masters Sunday in April. Not after he looked so powerful, so confident, so healthy among the stately Georgia pines as he won his 15th major and first in 11 years. Not after expectations reached a zenith, especially the renewed countdown to catching Jack Nicklaus and his record 18 majors.

No, Tiger Woods' year wasn't supposed to end with a whimper.

But Sunday at the soggy No. 3 course at Medinah Country Club, where he won two of his 15 majors back in the day, Woods bid adieu to a season that turned forgettable after he pulled off one of the most remarkable victories, not only in golf, but in all of sport.

In the final round of the BMW Championship, Woods wasn't bothered by discomfort from his fused spine but nonetheless ached as his play left him wanting. In need of a bagful of birdies, Woods struggled to make pars en route to an ordinary, even-par 72 that left him well behind the leaders and sent him home to Florida instead of to the season-ending Tour Championship in Atlanta as one of the top 30 in the FedEx Cup standings.

"It's disappointing," Woods said of not being able to defend his title next week in the Tour Championship. It was at East Lake last year where he walked toward the green of the 72nd hole trailed by thousands of people in the fairway, a swarm that nearly swallowed him up. The win was the 80th of his career, first since 2013, and capped his remarkable return to the game last season.

"Last year culminated in a pretty special moment for me and it would have been nice to go back there, but I'll be watching the guys on TV," he said.

This season culminated at the BMW Championship, which was just his sixth start since winning the Masters. With missed cuts in the PGA Championship and the British Open and a WD from last week's Northern Trust after the first round, Woods played just 17 rounds in four months and was never in contention as the rest of the season was marked by back pain and long absences from the game.

But his disappointment and pain are soothed by the memory of winning in April at Augusta National.

"Very special to win my 15th major and get my fifth jacket," Woods said when asked to assess his season. "Those are special moments. The rest of the tournaments I didn't really play as well as I wanted to but at the end of the day, I'm the one with the green jacket."

That's what Joe LaCava, Woods' caddie, told his boss as they walked off the green of the 18th hole. It's the reason LaCava graded the season an A-, for the victory at Augusta National outshined all the dark days.

"I'd be lying if I said I wasn't disappointed with the second half of the season," LaCava said. "Tiger would tell you the same thing. Unfortunately, and I know his short game wasn't good, but we're about a week from contending again and possibly winning because his swing was coming around, and he was hitting the shots he wants to hit. He was as healthy this week as I've seen him in a while.

"I know his health is going to be a mystery going forward because backs are funny. But I saw more energy this week and I see him physically better so I'm looking forward to next year. By the time we come around to next year he'll be refocused, and he'll get ready and get after it."

Before 2020 arrives, Woods will captain the USA in the Presidents Cup in December in Australia and is scheduled to play the ZoZo Championship in Japan the third week of October. He'll host the Hero World Challenge the week before heading to the land Down Under.

He's looking forward to all three, for after Sunday's round, Woods certainly didn't sound like a man who thinks his Masters triumph was his swan song. The competitive fire still resides inside, and he'll make sure he'll do everything he can to defend his Masters title next year.

"Right now, the most important thing is fitness for sure," Woods said.

Time for Titans to work on lessons learned vs Pats

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)— The Tennessee Titans got their chance to measure themselves against the defending Super Bowl champs with a pair of joint practices and a preseason game.

Now it's time to get back to work as the Titans try to meet the Patriots' standard.

"It was really beneficial for us," quarterback Marcus Mariota said. "The opportunity again to work against an organization, you're talking about the Super Bowl champs, so anytime you get that opportunity and to see where you stack up and continue to just build off what you're doing I think that's huge."

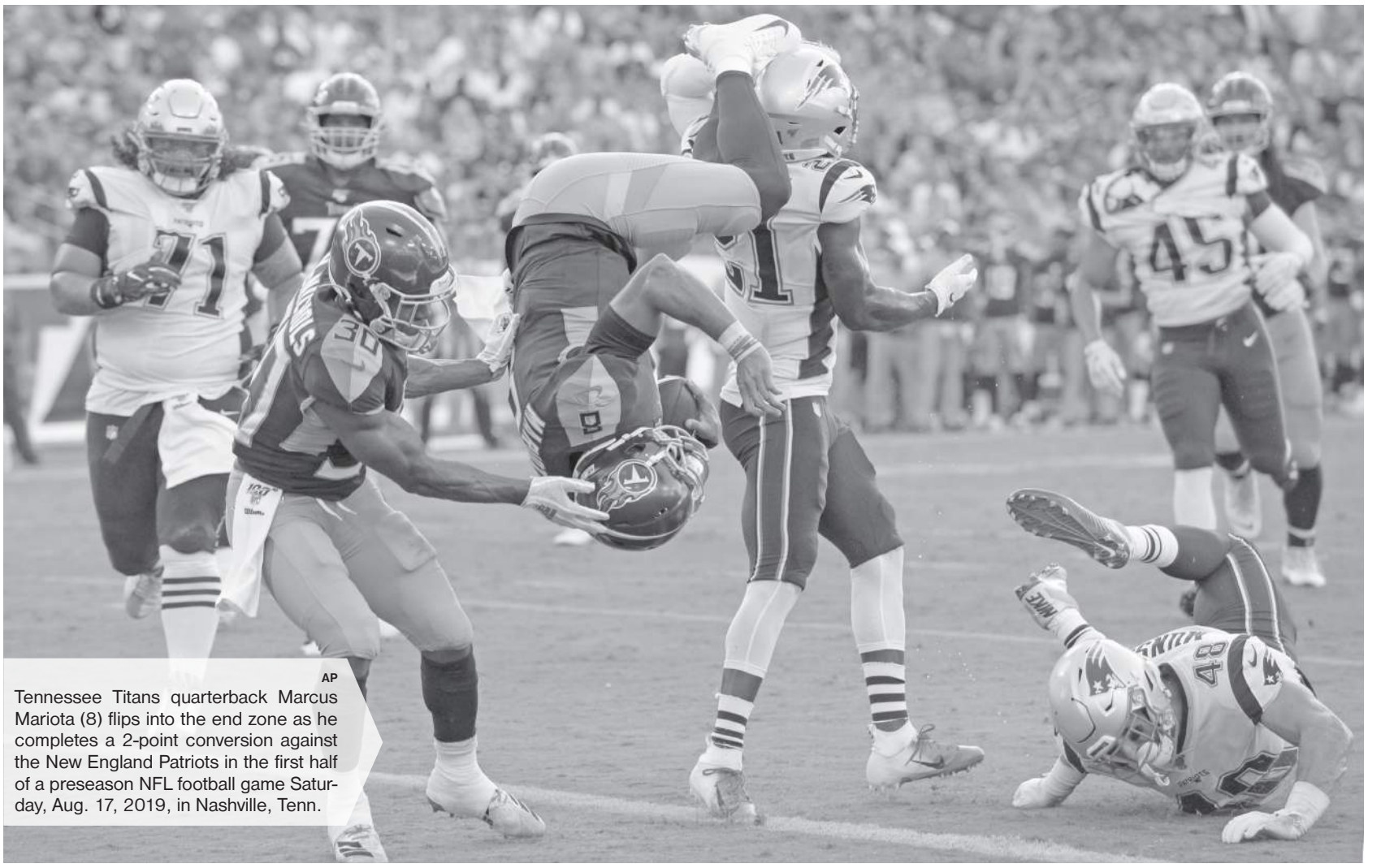
The Titans (1-1) led New England 17-8 Saturday night at halftime and lost 22-17 with Tom Brady watching all night from the sideline. Coach Mike Vrabel, who won three Super Bowl rings as a linebacker for the Patriots, said the past few days have been great for the Titans.

"To have a team come in here that's a proven winner, a proven organization, how they operate, how they do things," Vrabel said. "For us, to be able to compete against them for two days and then play a game against them is always going to be beneficial."

Before the Titans can work on trying to reach the playoffs for the second time in three seasons, first they have to fix some issues that emerged in the loss to New England. For a second straight game, a franchise that set a team record in a 16-game season for the NFL's fewest penalties in 2018 was flagged for double-digit penalties —this time 10 for 77 yards.

Vrabel said whether his team sees something as a penalty or not doesn't matter to the officials.

"We have to be conscious of what they're looking at, the mechanics they're using to call those secondary calls, whether it be holding or illegal contact," Vrabel said. "So, just continuing to work that stuff."



AP

Tennessee Titans quarterback Marcus Mariota (8) flips into the end zone as he completes a 2-point conversion against the New England Patriots in the first half of a preseason NFL football game Saturday, Aug. 17, 2019, in Nashville, Tenn.

Vrabel said Sunday that's why the Titans will take advantage of an extra day before they host Pittsburgh (2-0) and spend Monday working on some issues. Then they will do some game-planning for the Steelers before having to wrap up the preseason with a game in Chicago on Aug. 29.

When running back Derrick Henry will return remains to be seen. Henry worked more extensively last week in his recovery from a left calf injured on the opening day of training camp. Vrabel's focus isn't seeing the running back in the preseason as much as having him ready for Sept. 8 when the Titans open the season at Cleveland.

"The whole goal is to make sure that Derrick's going to be with us obviously, and it's going to be a large part of what we do," Vrabel said. "He'll have to start the year like he finished it last year. Whether that means playing in the preseason or not, I'm not really sure."

Caution this preseason has been the main focus for the Titans. That's why receiver Adam Humphries, who left Wednesday's practice with the Patriots early and didn't practice Thursday, took part in warmups Saturday night yet did not play.

The Titans also held out defensive lineman Jurrell Casey along with linebackers Harold Landry III and Cameron Wake.

Raiders GM calls out Brown

In Oakland, Raiders general manager Mike Mayock told disgruntled receiver Antonio Brown it's time to decide whether he's "all in or all out" about playing this season after losing a fight with the NFL and NFLPA over his helmet.

Mayock issued a statement to reporters that the Raiders released in a video on Twitter expressing his frustration that Brown didn't participate in practice Sunday despite being healed from the frost-bitten feet that have sidelined him for most of training camp.

"You all know that A.B. is not here today. So here's the bottom line. He's upset about the helmet issue. We have supported that. We appreciate that," Mayock said. "But at this point, we've pretty much exhausted all avenues of relief. So from our perspective, it's time for him to be all in or all out. So we're hoping he's back soon. We've got 89 guys busting their tails. We are really excited about where this franchise is going and we hope A.B. is going to be a big part of it starting Week 1 against Denver. End of story. No questions."

Brown has been upset that the NFL and NFLPA won't allow him to use the same Schutt Air Advantage that he has used throughout his career. Brown filed a grievance over the issue that he lost on Aug. 12 and then set out to find a newer version of the helmet that was less than 10 years old to get approved.

Brown's agent, Drew Rosenhaus, said last week after Brown returned to the Raiders training camp facility that they had found several helmets and were waiting formal approval. Brown took part in pregame warmups before an exhibition game in Arizona on Thursday night and took part in a walkthrough on Saturday, prompting coach Jon Gruden to express confidence that he would soon be able to practice.

The helmet was sent to the independent Biokinetics Inc. lab in Ottawa for testing with results shared with biomechanical engineers from both the league and union, a person familiar with the testing said on condition of anonymity because the results weren't released.

Unexpected champions at Western & Southern Open

MASON, Ohio (AP)—Two unexpected champions embraced their first Rookwood championship trophies, concluding a week that brought more questions than clarity to the upcoming U.S. Open.

Who's going to be healthy on the women's side? Will stumbles in the men's bracket at the Western & Southern Open carry over to New York?

And are Madison Keys and Daniil Medvedev capable of carrying their newfound momentum into a Grand Slam event? After winning the biggest tournament title of their careers, they were already getting asked about how it might transfer to the bigger stage.

Keys rallied late in both sets and beat Svetlana Kuznetsova 7-5, 7-6 (5) Sunday for her second title of the season and easily the biggest of her career. After flameouts in her last three tournaments and a tough draw for the week, she couldn't imagine the outcome.

Back on the court to receive the trophy , she told the crowd: "If you told me this is where I would be a week ago, I would have laughed in your face!"

Yet there she was, back in the Top 10 on a surprising upswing heading to New York.

She'll move up to the No. 10 ranking after a gritty showing that was typical of her week. She broke Kuznetsova to pull even in both sets at 5-5 and then pulled them out with a steady serve.

Keys hadn't made it past the second round in her last three tournaments, including Wimbledon. Now she's got a good feeling with her favorite Grand Slam event at hand.

"It's definitely a great building block," Keys said. "I want to do well in New York and have a good end to the season."

At 34, Kuznetsova was the oldest finalist in the Western & Southern Open's history. She beat three top-10 players in a tournament—Sloane Stephens, Karolina Pliskova and Ashleigh Barty—for the first time in her 19-year career.

The 153rd-ranked player got a late start on the season as she completed a seven-month recovery from a knee injury.

In her ninth tournament of the season, she got her game together and got her best result in two years.

"Honestly, I didn't expect to be so good at this tournament," she said.

After what happened in Cincinnati during the week, nobody knows what to expect in the women's bracket in New York.

Serena Williams dropped out of Cincinnati because of back spasms that also forced her to withdraw from the final in Toronto. Naomi Osaka, the defending U.S. Open champion, withdrew from her semifinal match on Friday with discomfort in her left knee that left her worried about her condition heading to New York.

There's some intrigue on the men's side, too.

The bracket in Cincinnati was billed as a reunion of the Big Four—Novak Djokovic, Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and Andy Murray back together for the first time since January. None of them made it to the final.

Nadal won the Rogers Cup last Sunday and withdrew from the Western & Southern, citing fatigue. Murray played singles for the first time since hip surgery in January and lost his opening match. Seven-time champion Federer was knocked out in the quarterfinals, and Djokovic lost to Medvedev in the semifinals with the crowd cheering him on.

The Russian thanked the crowd for its support after beat David Goffin 7-6 (3), 6-4 for his first Masters 1000 title Sunday. It was his third straight final, but the first time he'd won. Medvedev lost to Nadal on Montreal a week earlier, then went on to reach his sixth final of this season, most on the ATP tour. He's won twice.

"To finally lift the trophy this week is an amazing feeling," Medvedev said.

At age 23, he became the youngest Cincinnati champion since Murray at age 21 in 2008.

"Congratulations," Goffin told him, "and I think you're ready for New York."

Lakers may get Howard to replace Cousins

CALIFORNIA—In the wake of DeMarcus Cousins' torn ACL that will likely end his first season with the Los Angeles Lakers before it ever begins, L.A. is down to one true center: JaVale McGee.

Searching for some extra depth down low, the Lakers may turn to a familiar, if infamous face.

According to a report, the Memphis Grizzlies have granted permission to the Lakers to speak to Dwight Howard, who is expected to eventually be released.

Howard had hinted last month that he would be open to returning to Los Angeles, despite the poor way his first stint ended.

The veteran big man spent a single season with the Lakers in in 2012-13 after a blockbuster trade from Orlando that involved four teams, 12 players and four draft picks. He saw a notable downtick in scoring and rebounding, and the Lakers only went 45-37. Howard left in the offseason to sign with the Houston Rockets.

Howard played well in three years with the Rockets, but he hasn't found a home since. He's spent each of the three last years on different teams—unceremoniously dumped each time in a trade.

By now, Howard knows he is no longer the league's most dominant center, and furthermore, the league has moved away from big men being the focal point of teams' offenses. In an interview last month with Charania, he said he doesn't "have an ego" and wants to help a team win however he can.

"I want to be whatever a team needs me to be," Howard said. "I've played in every situation so far. I used to really hate how Draymond (Green) plays, but what I noticed watching him during these playoffs was that he does everything for the team.

"He's everywhere. He'll get a tech, he'll take a charge, he'll be everywhere on defense. He's talking. He does everything. It doesn't show up in the stat sheet, but it shows up in the mind of everyone watching. I want to be that person."

It's easy to clown Howard, but he can still be a useful player, especially in a complementary role. Last season—when he only played nine games due to various injuries—was the first time in his career he didn't average a double-double, and he still posted 12.8 points and 9.2 rebounds per game on 62.3 percent shooting.

AP

In this undated file photo, Los Angeles Lakers center Dwight Howard dunks during their game against the Milwaukee Bucks in Los Angeles.

Since Anthony Davis indicated that he doesn't want to play center, the Lakers will need somebody to provide depth down low. That could also come in the form of veteran Joakim Noah, but the Lakers' roster has another move or two to make.

Lin may play for Beijing Ducks

Jeremy Lin finally won an NBA Championship this summer with the Toronto Raptors, but maybe not the way he imagined. The 30-year-old only logged 51 seconds in the Finals and remains unsigned as a free agent this offseason.

Lin already turned down offers from teams in Europe, as he continues to try to find a new home in the NBA, but now his attention may be turning to China.

According to a report from Sportando's Sonx Xiang, Lin is in advanced negotiations with the Beijing Ducks. If that name is familiar, it's the same team former NBA star — and current CBA coach—Stephon Marbury played on for seven seasons.

Lin, who is the first American of Taiwanese or Chinese descent in the NBA, is currently on his annual tour of Asia and has indicated multiple times that he would consider playing across the Pacific.

"About five years ago, I began to consider whether I should play basketball in Asia," Lin said in July, via the South China Morning Post, "because every year when I visit the region I see so many fans, and they make me want to play a few seasons in the region."

If a deal with the Ducks does not come to fruition, one other option Lin has discussed is possibly playing with his brother, Joseph, for the Fubon Braves in Taiwan's Super Basketball League. While the CBA is considered a higher level of competition, the Braves could also be intriguing because they won the SBL crown a month before Lin won it all with the Raptors this June.

Lin's preference remains to play in the NBA, and he could still be a serviceable third-string guard. Although he only shot 29.4 percent from three last season—below his 34.2 percent career average—he's effective in the pick-and-roll and is a strong free-throw shooter.

CNMI

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to Indonesia, 18-0. Our opponents, big-country FIFA members, will be coming to the game in full force. But the CNMI will dare to face these challenges with our 100% effort in every game," Mita added.

The coach and his staff have been pushing the Teen Ayuyus hard in their training sessions at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville with the off-island competition just around the corner. Before resuming its practice sessions at the NMISTC, the 22-player squad went through an eight-day training camp in the Philippines to boost its preparations for the AFC event and gauge the players' improvement for the past six months. The CNMI bets also played training matches in Guam.

"Through our camp at Tuloy in the Philippines, the areas of improvement in attack and defense became very clear. So we are focusing on those areas now. We are also working to build 90-minute game fitness. We've been having a series of games and analysis to track progress and challenges so that we can form our play style towards the tournament," Mita said.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI head coach Michiteru Mita, right, demonstrates plays with his staff Jersh Angeles, left, and Chris Aninzo during one of their training sessions at the Tuloy XO Field in the Philippines last month.

The NMIFA official admitted having a young and inexperience players would be a challenge for the team, as they will be going up against formidable opponents in Indonesia. However, Mita is pleased with the work ethic that CNMI players are showing and this could work on their advantage come competition time.

"What is great about CNMI players in general is that they try hard and don't give up even if we may be a 'small fish in a big AFC pond'. Such attitude can make a big difference," Mita said.

"The current CNMI U15 team also puts genuine efforts to overcome the challenges and improve every day. With the coaching staff doing a fantastic job, the U15 squad is becoming strongly united," he added.

TRENCH

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most effective single martial art in the world. They'll develop strength, physical fitness and mental fortitude. Your child will develop social skills and make quality friends," Alvarez said.

The Trench Tech head assured that only experienced BJJ practitioners will conduct the classes to ensure the safety of the children.

"They will learn from experienced trainers. We keep it very safe and teach technique over power. There is no striking in BJJ, but your child will learn to tumble and break fall appropriately," Alvarez said.

For more information, call Trench Tech at 670-783-4662. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

TSINGTAO

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away from IT&E Dark in the second quarter en route to its 20-point win.

Ahead by only 5 after the first period, 18-13, Mawati more than tripled IT&E Dark's output in the second frame to established a 50-19 advantage at the break. Four Mawati players recorded two field goals each to help their team pull away, while three more also contributed in the surge.

IT&E Dark had a meltdown in the second quarter after drilling only 6 points off Ivan Devero's two baskets and Raymark Castro's deuce. IT&E never made headway in the second half after the collapse in the second canto, as Devero did not get enough help from his teammates, while Mawati continued to play unselfish basketball.

First Game

Tsingtao 79—Jandoc 16, Pineda 14, Ariar 13, Broncano 10, Pangelinan 8, Demonteverde 8, Agbanlog 6, Danipog 3, Rivera 3, Giron 2, Alano 2.

RNV 66—Mortos 22, R. Rueda 15, Baul 13, Odicta 9, Tumaquio 2, Taraya 2, Padolna 2, Tagle 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-19, 36-39, 59-55, 79-66.

Second Game

Mawati 68—Nonato 12, Ferrer 11, Rejano 8, Directo 8, Pena 6, Reyes 6, Enriquez 4, Velasco 2, Avila 2.

IT&E Dark 48—Devero 13, Duero 12, Cabanas 8, Aguon 7, Castro 6, Peredo 2.

Scoring by quarters: 18-13, 40-19, 52-30, 68-48.

Alonso breaks NL rookie HR record, Mets top Royals

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Sports

Thomas wins, gets inside track to $15M prize

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CNMI braces for challenges

GUAM FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION PHOTO
The CNMI Boys U15 National Team's Daniel Mar Pablo, center, kicks the ball and is defended by two Guam players during a training match last June at the Guam Football Association National Training Center.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Boys U15 National Team may be the underdog in the Asian Football Confederation U16 Championship 2020 Qualifiers, but the group will definitely not back down from its intimidating opponents.

The Commonwealth players are in Group G of the qualifying tournament, which will be held in Jakarta, Indonesia from Sept. 14 to 22, and will be battling the host country, China, Brunei, and the Philippines.

"China will probably be the toughest because it has been placing a lot of efforts and resources in developing football nation-wide and it is rising fast. This said, all matches will be tough for our squad," Northern Mariana Islands Football Association technical director and the Teen Ayuyus head coach Michiteru Mita said.

"Two years ago, we lost

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Tsingtao, Mawati cruise to victory

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tsingtao Beer and Mawati won by double digits against their respective opponents in the 2019 One Pacific Promotional Basketball League last Saturday at the Civic Center Court in Susupe.

Mawati coasted to 68-48 victory over IT&E Dark in the nightcap, while Tsingtao Beer posted a 79-66 triumph in the first game.

Tsingtao turned the tables on RNV Construction in the second half for a baker's dozen winning margin. Behind at the halftime break, 36-39, Tsingtao made the move in the third period to grab the upper hand, 59-55. Jess Pineda and Ed Pangelinan scored 6 markers apiece in Tsingtao's 23-point production in the penultimate frame, while four of their teammates also hit the board in the pivotal quarter.

Then in the fourth canto, Tsingtao widened the gap further, as it ran another balance offense. Six different players scored for Tsingtao in the final canto, including Mark Demonterverde and Pineda, who combined for 10 points.

RNV failed to regain the driver's seat in the fourth frame, as it was held to four field goals and relied heavily on Andy Mortos, who delivered 9 of the squad's 13 markers in the payoff canto.

Mortos ended up with a game-high 22 points, while Jet Jandoc paced Tsingtao with his 16 markers. Pineda added 14 points, Peter Ariar logged 13, and Jonathan Brocano chipped in 10, while Demonteverde and Juboy Agbanog combined for 14 for Tsingtao. Ronald Rueda and Ariel Baul were the other double-figure scorer for RNV with 15 and 13, respectively, but the former was limited to a field goal and one free throw in the fourth quarter, while the latter was scoreless after making 7 points in the third.

Meanwhile, Mawati broke

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Tsingtao Beer's Ed Pangelinan pulls up for a jumper, while three RNV Construction defenders look on during the fourth quarter of their game in the 2019 One Pacific Promotional Basketball League last Saturday at the Civic Center Court in Susupe.

Trench Tech considering BJJ classes for kids

Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Black Belt Cuki Alvarez has announced that Trench Tech is planning to hold BJJ classes for children in the 5-8 age group.

The program may start once Trench Tech has at least 10 enrollees.

"We are excited about this and want to start a 'kids only' BJJ program. However, currently we are only accepting kids age 8 and up because that's been our rule and younger children tend to have a very short attention span and always end up wanting just to play or lose interest because they are simply overwhelmed by the 'big people' surrounding them. This disrupts the class," Alvarez said.

"So with that in mind, please help us spread the word and let's start recruiting more and more kids ages 5 to 8 years old old and we will be happy to accommodate them separately," the Trench Tech founder added.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE
Two boys work on their Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu techniques during a BJJ class at Trench Tech Gym.

Once 10 children avail of the program, Alvarez and his team will start holding regular Gi classes every Tuesday and Thursday from 5pm to 6pm. Prior BJJ experience is not required and parents are also welcome to watch their children during the classes.

Alvarez encouraged parents to enroll their children in the program, as BJJ has a lot of-benefits to the child's wellbeing, physically, mentally, and emotionally.

"They will develop discipline, respect, honor, leadership and self-confidence, and more! Your child will learn the

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